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THE
V O Y A G E S
AND
ADVENTURES
OF THE
CHEVALIER DUPONT.
IN FOUR VOLUMES.
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,
VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

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CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

This Volume contains a short Account of the Author, and of his Voyage from, the Isle of Aix to Martinico.—His Voyages from thence to St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, Marigalante, Guadalupe, St. Thomas's, and Santa Cruz ; with the Natural History of each Island.

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THE
VOYAGES AND ADVENTURES
OF THE
CHEVALIER DUPONT.

I Shall neither amuse myself nor weary my reader with tracing a long account of my genealogy, but shall briefly observe that I am descended from a good family and one of the most ancient in France; I was only six years old when my father died and my mother survived him but two years, an elder brother, a younger sister and myself were all the children they had; we were

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left to the care of an uncle, a very honest man, though of mean understanding, and much addicted to pleasure. As a young woman with whom he cohabited and who commonly passed as his wife, a cook and a footman formed the whole of his family, he did not think it proper for us to receive our education under his roof, nor was he able to watch our conduct in the manner he thought necessary; therefore was prudent enough to send my sister to a convent, where she had a relation, and my brother and myself to Paris to complete our education.

It was here I contracted an intimate acquaintance with a young gentleman,
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who boarded at the same college, and who although a very worthy youth, was notwithstanding, the original cause of every misfortune I afterwards experienced; His name was Dupradel; he was only two years older than myself, but a conformity of taste, disposition and sentiment united us in the strictest friendship.

He one day took me with him to visit his mother, who lived in the city and might from her enormous size, be compared to the Colossus at Rhodes: she had a great share of good sense, but had a most passionate fondness for voyages, especially if they tended to the marvellous and as I was fortunate enough

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to gain her esteem, she recommended the perusal of some memoirs to me, and gave me several for that purpose, amongst which were Robinson Crusoe and others of the same stamp. I took them home with me and perused them several times over with the greatest avidity and seized every vacant moment to return to them, fully convinced of the truth of what I read, as I was too young then to know better. I had at that time seen no other books, besides my grammar, &c. and was far from supposing men capable of deceiving so grossly, when they set off with assuring the public of the authenticity of every fact related and their only motive for publishing the narrative, was their desire

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fire to inform and entertain ; by the frequent perusal of these however, I grew so fond of adventures, that they engrossed my whole attention night and day and I entirely neglected my studies. My preceptors perceived it, but were ignorant of the cause ; they reproached me for it, and by comparisons, which in any other circumstances would have been odious, they endeavoured to excite an emulation in me : my brother himself, who one day surprized me with my favourite authors, took the liberty of reprimanding me very severely ; the tone of authority which he assumed displeased me very much, as if I believed myself equal in judgment to him ; this, with an aversion to every thing

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that appeared like dependance, concurred to make me answer him with warmth; my brother, in his reply, threatened me; I held at that time a stone in my hand, which I levelled so well at his forehead, that he fell, and the effusion of blood from the wound was very considerable. The surgeon was sent for to dress it; he declared, however, that there was no danger; the Principal of the College ordered me, during nine days, to be fed with bread and water alone, took my books from me, and to render the punishment more efficacious, he ordered that I should receive, on the first and ninth day, a hundred strokes of the rod; which were given without any abatement. Although
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this punishment was by no means agreeable to me, I would have preferred it to any apologies that I might have been ordered to make to my brother ; but this also happened, and my comrade had occasion for all his influence over me to induce me to submit to ask him forgiveness. Two years afterwards rolled away in a seeming good understanding between my brother and me ; at which time we went to pass the holidays at Mons. Lassevilles, counsellor to the parliament of Paris, who was an intimate friend of my father's, and to whom we were sent by my uncle. I did not lose the opportunity of telling him my inclination for a sea-faring life ; I got him to approve of it, and engaged

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him to write to my uncle, who, in his answer, left him to act for me as he thought best.

He returned to Paris, and in less than two months every thing was arranged as I could wish, and I left it the 7th of February, 1728, to go to Rochfort, the place of my appointment, in the quality of midshipman, with every thing proper for my station, and a thousand crowns in my pocket. Besides several letters which I had to carry to some of the principal people in that province, I had one from M. de Forcade, first commissioner in the marine department, for Mons. L***, a commissary in that place, who received me with open arms, and

and entertained me for a whole week. He was a good Israelite, and had great sense. His wife possessed good sense, beauty, and virtue. She carried the latter a little too far, for she required as much virtue in every other person as she was herself possessed of. A sister-in-law about nineteen, who lived with her as a companion, was obliged to comply with all the rigid austerity of her morals. I was willing to teach her something more pleasing, which she listened to with eagerness, but we were so unguarded as to suffer ourselves to be surprised at a moment, that was but very indifferently interpreted for our reputation. We were judged with severity, and, to avoid scandal, I was

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obliged to seek a fresh abode, and leave to the public to put what construction on it they pleased. I went to board with an old apothecary, a very skilful man ; who notwithstanding his being a good chemist, could not find out any secret to prevent the reports circulated about him and a young woman, whom he said he had married, that he might have his daughter (whom he had by a former marriage) educated by her at home. I was young, agreeable, and complaisant, well proportioned, though low of stature, lively, graceful, and full of repartee : I listened to the mother, and the daughter to me, and during three months that I lived in that house, I had the satisfaction of not offending

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the good old man, or either of the ladies; but the daughter was one day weak enough to reveal the secret between us to the mother. I knew not what was her design in it, as she needed not have feared any discovery; and without her indiscretion, I should not have been obliged, to avoid the reproaches of these two women, and the uneasiness and perhaps troublesome consequences such a discovery might occasion, to embark for the island of Aix, where our vessel was in the road more than fifteen days before the time fixed by the captain.

From the 14th of May, 1728, that I left Rochford to go to Aix, to the 5th
of

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of June following, the time appointed for the general rendezvous, I made some reflections upon my conduct, not from any remorse I felt from it, but occasioned by two letters which I received from M. de Lasseville and my uncle, who had been informed of my behavior at Rochford, from the day of my arrival to that of my flight. But these reflections did not alter my disposition.

On the 7th of June, at four, a. m. a northerly wind sprung up, which was as propitious to us as we could wish; we hoisted our sails, and a salute of cannon, according to custom, pronounced our departure to the inhabitants.

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We were to sail to Martinico, from thence to St. Domingo, and then return to France. There happened nothing extraordinary in this voyage, and, some trifles excepted, every thing was very regular. I employed myself, like the rest, in making my journal; my maritime observations would afford but little entertainment to the reader, therefore I shall omit them. I shall not however neglect a description of those things, which other travellers have not given an exact account of. I shall recount every interesting event, and shall as faithfully as possible describe the customs, manners, and religion of the inhabitants of the different countries that I have visited, and shall every where endeavour to unite

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unite the agreeable with the useful. I shall avoid all long digressions, which serve only to weary and disgust; and leave to the sensible reader to make what reflections he thinks proper.

I made an acquaintance aboard ship with two Parisians, who were going abroad to take their revenge on fortune for having treated them scurvily at home; one of them was a son of a commissary at Paris, named B***, a man of excellent dispositions and great spirit. On the other hand, his companion, from the misfortunes of his family and his own experience, had drowned all his greatness of mind; he was the son of an eminent merchant, and was named

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D***. He was reserved and melancholy ; his distress, he would sometimes tell me, arose from his being obliged to leave his sister, who was young and handsome, whom he very much loved, and had left her without any resource but her accomplishments ; but the chimerical expectations of her brother making his fortune, which she thought of dividing with him, led her into some indiscretions that terminated very disadvantageously for her, as I afterwards heard. As for her brother, he was very fortunate, for he had not ten crowns when he embarked, and soon after his arrival at Martinico, he was possessed of a hundred louis d'ors : this sum eclipsed

all

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all his tenderness for his sister, and made him forget her.

As I shall have more occasions than one to mention these two persons in the course of these memoirs, I shall leave speaking of them further till their arrival at Martinico, the place of their destination.

Besides these two passengers, we had also two Jesuits and a Dominican; the latter came from Toulon to embark at Rochford; they were going to the houses their sect had at Fort St. Pierre, in Martinico and at Guadalupe.

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We had also a citizen of Paris, about fifty years of age, with her niece about twenty, who were going to cape François to join a relation, who had acquired a fortune there.

As these two women were very much attached to the Dominican, and at the beginning of the voyage had affected to treat us with contempt, and avoided our company, they were equally exposed to our pleasantries; but they were soon humbled, as the sequel will discover.—

Few are unacquainted with the ridiculous ceremony of baptism, that the
failors

sailors practise under the tropics and under the line, upon all who have never before passed them; it is a perquisite belonging to the crew, and those who have never crossed them are obliged to pay so much money, or be immersed in the sea, by means of a rope tied round their body; when being hawled up to the main yard arm, they suddenly let them fall into the water, hoist them up again, and repeat it three times. None are exempt from this; and the Captain's authority, which is almost absolute, is suspended for that day.

There were in all, eight of us that were unbaptized, and we were delivered over to the discretion of these ministers.

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Upon each person giving six livres and two bottles of brandy, they were excused the ducking, and had only a little water thrown over their heads, with the sign of the cross marked on them.

We had all now passed by fine, except the two ladies; they were not much beloved by the ship's company, as, from their complaints, some of the sailors had been put in irons. They were determined not to pay, and to complete their ill luck, they had before taken as a protector one of our lieutenants, who was venerable from his age, but disliked by the crew, and had, by the neglect of his patrons, been forgot in all the promotions which had been

been made for twenty or thirty years past, although a very brave man, and much esteemed. Undoubtedly his attention was that day otherwise engaged, as he forgot to instruct his pupils properly, to recommend them to the humanity of the sailors; for which neglect the goddesses received a very complete ducking.

One day that it was my turn to call the watch, I went to seek the lieutenant, and entered without ceremony into his cabin. I found him, to my great astonishment, in a very ridiculous situation with the niece; I laughed violently, and departed as quick as lightning. The damsel came to me immediately,

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and begged of me to keep secret what I had been a witness to, which I had no great inclination to comply with ; however, on her repeated intreaties, I promised her conditionally : this she at first complied with reluctantly, but seeing the necessity of it, she consented, and I that day made her fulfil her promise, whilst one half of the crew were upon deck, and the rest asleep.

About five days afterwards, on the 27th of July, 1728, we arrived in the road of Martinico, about eight o'clock in the morning ; the salute being given and returned, we went ashore, to make a visit to the Governor-general, and to deliver our dispatches. The Governor-general

general was at that time the Marquis de Champigny, one of the most intrepid officers that we had. His memory will always be dear and revered by the inhabitants of the leeward islands, where he was Governor for sixteen years. His great disinterestedness, his scrupulous honesty, his affability, his integrity, his zeal for religion, and the interests of his King, made him beloved beyond expression whilst living, and his memory revered after death. This character of him is due to justice and truth.

After he had welcomed us all, a lively and intrepid air which he observed in my countenance, occasioned him to ask who I was; I had no sooner declared my

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my name, my country, and my taste for a sea-faring life, than he took me in his arms, heaped caresses on me, and said he knew my father well; that he had been his intimate friend, and he regretted his loss very sincerely; that from his friendship for him, he would take every opportunity of serving me to the utmost of his power. He then informed me that my life would not well agree with my fortune, (which was but small); that preferment in the navy came very slow, especially in the time of peace; that if I would continue with him, he would take upon himself to secure me an easy fortune; and as my motive for embracing that way of life was my taste for seeing distant parts, he would

would put me in a method of satisfying my curiosity with great advantage to myself.

The gracious reception of the General, and the good will he expressed for me, which affected me very much, made me, without hesitation, accept his offers. They were very sincere on his part, but alas! my inconstancy, or rather the malignity of my stars, prevented me reaping the advantages I might have done.

He gave us a splendid dinner; the healths of the King and Queen were celebrated with a salute of twenty-one guns each; and I may say, that no Governor

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vernor ever better supported his Majesty's dignity.

We afterwards returned to our ship ; the next day I bid adieu to my comrades, and sent my cloaths, &c. to the Marquis de Champigny's. As soon as he saw me, he advanced several paces to meet and embrace me, and ordered my baggage to be conducted to a chamber, which he had prepared for me, next his own.

The same day some officers arrived from aboard to dine with the Governor ; they were accompanied by the two Parisians, who had each of them a letter for the General. Mr. B*** brought a

letter from his uncle, who possessed considerable property in Piccardy, where he was Governor; and Mr. D***, one from the Abbe Champigny, who recommended him strongly to the Governor; he received them very courteously, and promised to serve them in every thing that was in his power. A few days afterwards he had an opportunity of executing his promise to one of them. One of his secretaries, who had been indisposed for some time past, died at that time, and he gave his place to Mr. D***, who wrote a very good hand, and had an extensive knowledge: this is the person who I said possessed a hundred lous d'ors upon his arrival, that was not worth ten crowns when he embarked;

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barked ; he very soon made a fortune, far above his most sanguine expectations.

It was a custom with the Marquis de Champigny, independent of his great days of festival, to give, once a week, an entertainment to the ladies of the place ; this was usually a supper in the evening, and a ball afterwards. Mr. D*** came to the first of these entertainments that were given after his arrival, where he had address enough to make his proposals agreeable to a young widow, who possessed a very considerable plantation and sugar-work, and had about fifteen or eighteen thousands of livres besides. He soon afterwards mar-

ried her, and went to live at her house, where he might possess without trouble or uneasiness the charms of his wife, and the enjoyment of so brilliant and sudden good fortune. Thus he gave an example of prudence, that is but seldom shewn, though he was culpable in forgetting his sister, who deserved his affection by his own account; and it would have been but trifling to him to have made her fortune easy, either by permitting her to live with him at Martinico, or allowing her sufficient to maintain herself with decency in France, but he did neither.

After I had been about five days with the Governor, I received a visit from
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the two citizens I have already mentioned, who were accompanied by the surgeon; as curiosity was their motive, I satisfied them in the best manner possible, and they departed very well pleased with their entertainment; and made me two more visits during the short time the vessel remained in the road.

On the 18th of August the officers of the ship came to take their leave of the Governor; and the next day, at six in the morning, they weighed anchor and sailed for St. Domingo.

Notwithstanding my satisfaction at Martinico, I could not refrain from tears at their departure.

I shall not here recite the different proofs of goodness and affection I received from M. de Champigny, but shall only observe they were equal to what I could have expected even if I had been his son; his affection was such as not only to attract the esteem and friendship of the officers of the island to me, but also that of the merchants and inhabitants, who, from my solicitation, easily obtained their desires; but I must do them the justice to say, that their generosity surpassed the services I did them.

As we had entertainments frequently for the ladies at the Governor's house, those of the town and neighbourhood
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generally came to them ; and amongst them a young and amiable widow, named Madam de Rupert, was very much esteemed by the Governor, and she was always accompanied by her sister Miss Juliet V***, who was nearly of my own age. The facility with which we saw each other, and our frequent conversations alone, gave rise to a very great esteem for her ; but I was afraid of making a declaration to her that might be badly received : however one day, when we were both much wearied with play, and I found her in a sprightly humour, I told her in a faint manner that I adored her, and that the indifference I perceived her to have for me, would infallibly destroy me, if she

continued it. She looked at me attentively, burst out a laughing, pinched my ear very severely, and went immediately to join her company. Such was her answer to my elegant harangue.

I must confess, that never was any man more surprized than myself; I knew not what to do to be revenged of her for her contempt; after wavering for some time, I determined to behave with indifference to her, and speak to her for the future with reserve and coldness.

As soon as we had dined, instead of going, according to custom, to join Miss Juliet, I went and threw myself
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upon a sofa behind the study door ; I had not been there more than half an hour, before I heard some person enter the apartment ; I opened my eyes, and found it was Juliet. I seized the favorable minute, and threw myself at the feet of that adorable woman, swore eternal love to her, and received her protestation to always have the same esteem for me she then had ; but alas ! fatal illusion ! how often the nature of the temperament is taken for love ! Before possession, it has all the appearance of that passion ; the desires are lively and impetuous ; but when once allayed, there remains only the shadow of what we thought was the substance.

I had

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I had on my finger a brilliant, worth about five and twenty Spanish pistoles, that a merchant of St. Pierre, named Prepont, had made me a present of some days before; I offered it to my dear Juliet, who accepted it with pleasure, and made me take in exchange a small cocoa box, of an oval figure, incrusted with gold, which I would not have exchanged for all the jewels belonging to the Sophy of Persia.

We continued, during three months, to believe that we sincerely loved each other; we gave every possible proof of it that opportunity would admit of, and I was very circumspect and attentive to prevent a discovery.

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Some affairs one day obliging me to go to St. Pierre, distant about twenty miles from Fort Royal, where the Governor-General lived, I went to dine with M. Brach, who was Governor of the fort; I found there Mr. Prepont, and Chevalier G * * * *, a gentleman from the Netherlands, who had been recommended to M. de Champigny by the Commissary of Dunkirk. This youth (for he was not eighteen years of age) was come to the islands to make a fortune with only his sword to trust to. Mr. Prepont, who had conceived an affection for him, designed to take him some voyages with him, that he might discover which way his genius tended; for he was absolutely,

Some

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ly, to appearance, ignorant of every thing, except his name and quality : he was well proportioned, of a fine size, had regular features, and the most delicate complexion ; but his teeth were black and uneven.

During the repast, Mr. Brach asked him if he had made any conquests since his arrival ? to which he immediately answered in the affirmative ; but said that he gave the preference to a lady at Fort Royal, whom he loved very sincerely, and that he wore on his finger a pledge of her fidelity. The company cast their eyes upon it, and Mr. Prepont and myself immediately knew the ring. My astonishment was beyond description,

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scription, whilst jealousy, rage, and despair assailed me alternately. I was forced however to conceal my emotions, and immediately forming my resolution on the risque of any thing that might happen, I desired the Chevalier to trust it with me for a moment. As soon as he gave it to me, I asked Mr. Prepont if he did not know that ring? He said that it had been his, and he had given it to me. I immediately put it on my finger, and told the Chevalier that it belonged to me; that I had lost it for some days, and was glad to find it in the possession of so polite a gentleman as he was; and I flattered myself that he would not refuse to restore it to the right owner. The young gentleman con-

fented

sented with reluctance, assured me that he had not found it; and said that it was Miss ———. “Stop, Sir,” I said; “it is not proper to name the person, after the conversation that has passed; it will be more prudent to keep silence.” The company approved of what I said, and the Chevalier was obliged to comply.

Dinner was no sooner finished than I took my leave, and without thinking of the affairs that had brought me to St. Pierre, I hastened to the shore, and embarked in a canoe, that I might the sooner arrive at Fort Royal, where I landed safe in three hours. I found a great deal of company at the Governor’s:

nor's: Miss Juliet was there, and engaged in a party at cards; I sometimes gave her looks of the greatest fury and indignation; she was now the object of my aversion, as much as she was before of my tenderness.

When her party had finished the game, she retired into a walk of olives in the garden, where I immediately followed her, and she asked me what she had offended me in? "What is become of the ring I gave you, traitress?" I said to her. Oh, I have forgot it, and left it at home," she answered; "is that then the cause of your ill humour? Be no longer disturbed, compose yourself, I will bring
" it

“ it you to-morrow.”—— “ I have it
 “ now, ungenerous woman,” I said,
 shewing it her at the same time upon my
 finger ; “ I received it,” I continued,
 “ from the Chevalier G***, to whom
 “ you gave it with your heart, and have
 “ sacrificed me to him.” I then re-
 lated to her every thing that had passed
 at St. Pierre, without omitting a single
 circumstance ; and concluded with ask-
 ing her what she could say to refute my
 story ? “ Nothing, Sir,” she replied,
 “ since you are weak enough to be jea-
 “ lous of a man that I despise. The
 “ Chevalier G*** is a base, deceitful
 “ wretch ; he came to me three days
 “ ago to ask my commands to Fort St.
 “ Pierre ; I was then at my toilet, on
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" which lay my ring ; he looked at it
 " with pleasure, and put it on his finger,
 " saying, that he would restore it to me
 " at his return ; I did not believe at
 " first that he designed to take it, but
 " he afterwards said he would return it
 " me the next day, as he should be
 " glad to match it, if possible. I en-
 " deavored by arguments to make him
 " restore it, but in vain ; he left me
 " immediately, and I had no person at
 " that moment near me to run after
 " him. This, Sir, is the truth of the
 " story, and I have nothing to reproach
 " myself with ; but you well deserve to
 " be made to repent of the injurious
 " suspicions that you have entertained
 " of me."

She

She immediately returned into the saloon, where I followed her very much disconcerted. I several times attempted to approach her, to confess the injury I had done her and ask her pardon; but she took care to avoid me.

After supper I offered her my hand as usual to conduct her to her carriage, but she refused me, and accepted another's. This behaviour piqued me, and re-animated all my jealousy; I had moreover much difficulty to reconcile what she said with what the Chevalier G*** had told me; my reflections concurred to make me believe, that she was culpable, and that I had been deceived by her: in consequence of these thoughts

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thoughts I determined to see her no more.

Juliet was ten days without making her appearance at the Governor's, and I remained at home, during all that time, without going once to visit her. At the end of this period the Governor gave a ball, when "Madam Rupert came alone to it; I enquired news of her sister; she told me she had been troubled with the head-ach during the morning, and was not willing to dress herself lest by her motion she should increase it. As she was an elegant dancer, all the company shewed their disappointment in her absence; I offered to go to her and use my intreaties to induce her to come;

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her sister consented, and I immediately departed.

I found her reclined upon a settee, with her eyes drowned in tears. So tender a sight destroyed all my resolution in an instant; I threw myself on my knees, took one of her hands and bathed it with my tears; I cursed myself a thousand times for having offended her; I asked her ten thousand pardons, and added as many oaths and protestations to assure her of my eternal fidelity. At length she seemed affected with my manner, and giving me a look full of affection and tenderness, said, "You owe your pardon to the greatness of my love, which makes me
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“ weak enough to forgive the injury
“ you have done me.” I thanked her
for her goodness, restored her her ring,
and persuaded her to dress herself and
accompany me to the Governor’s. Up-
on our arrival, every one congratulated
me upon my success in persuading the
lady to honor the ball with her com-
pany, as it would not have been com-
plete without her. The entertainment
was as usual, and I waited of her home
in the morning.

The same day Mr. B***, one of the
companions of my voyage, was provided
for by the interest of the Governor; the
place of Receiver-General was vacated
by the death of the possessor, and it
was

was given to him. Mr. Prepont recommended care and caution to him, but his misconduct, as I learned some time afterwards, and his too great confidence in a free mulatto woman that he was extravagantly fond of, occasioned, without the necessity of witchcraft, the sudden disappearance of all his cash; the deficiency amounted to more than five thousand crowns. Mr. Prepont paid it, and the Governor repaid him. This was another instance (though by no means the greatest) of the goodness of M. de Champigny. The Governor was singular both in his thoughts and actions; he never once told him of his indiscretion, but ordered Mr. Prepont to count out five hundred crowns, and
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remit them to Mr. B***, to make a trading voyage with among the Spaniards, in order to re-establish his affairs. We will defer speaking of what success he had, until I return from my voyage to Curacao in 1730.

I cannot avoid mentioning in these memoirs an event which proved the depravity of the human heart: the ministers of religion, who pretend to correct the passions, and preach moral doctrines, ought to be much less susceptible of vice than others I think, if they would add strength to their lessons. To inform others, it is necessary to set a good example, or how can they believe the necessity of practising what they hear?

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Nevertheless, a bad example ought not to influence those who are born and educated in the Christian religion, and are convinced of the truth of the sacred writings; and I sincerely wish that it did not those who are less informed; but they generally judge of the truth and necessity of what they hear by the lives and actions of the preachers. But I beg pardon for this digression, and return to my story.

About the month of November in that year M. Gervaise, a bishop, arrived at Martinico with three ecclesiastics in his train; one was his chief priest, the others were his private chaplain and secretary. The bishop was a man of distinguished

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tinguished merit, of sound religion, and brother to the Abbè Gervaise. He was going to the country inhabited by the savages on the river Oroonoko, in South America, to exercise his apostolical function there, which till that time was supplied by dominicans and jesuits; but the frequent misunderstandings that happened among these fathers very much hurt the progress of religion. This prelate, very zealous for the propagation of the gospel, and furnished with proper powers from the pope, was determined to go there to settle religion upon a more certain foundation.

All the different religious orders in the colonies came to visit the bishop,

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who lodged at the Governor's. Two jesuits, among the rest, from Fort St. Pierre, where they were the chiefs of the house, brought a petition to the bishop, to implore his interest with the Governor to obtain a fresh grant of some land for the use of the order; the grant they requested was for a very considerable piece of ground, and it required only the General's consent to put them in possession of it. He promised his influence. The bishop communicated the petition that had been presented to him by the jesuits, to the Governor. M. de Champigny shewed him the register of the grants they had before received at different times, since their establishment in those islands. He

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convinced the bishop that the lands they already possessed, were more than sufficient to maintain all these holy fathers, if they lived in temperance and sobriety. This cause was the motive that induced the Governor to refuse their request before, and it was satisfactory to the reverend father.

There were great misunderstandings between the jesuits and dominicans from the difference of their sentiments. These arose to so great a heighth, that the bishop thought it necessary to interpose, in order to correct the acrimony with which they treated each other, and to reform some abuses of religion that had crept into the church ceremonies ; but

he died a martyr to his zeal, and with him the jesuits murdered his chief priest and chaplain: but the secretary found means to escape by flight from their savage fury.

I had now been five months at Martinico, and notwithstanding the happiness I enjoyed, I could not avoid wishing to visit other places, especially since the hopes M. de Champigny had inspired me with. I took the liberty of acquainting him with my desires one evening, when we were alone; he answered me with his usual goodness, and told me he had often thought of it, but was willing to place me in the hands of a man, whom he could repose a confidence

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fidence in ; that he wished him to be a man of experience, whose judgment I might rely on, and one in whom I might find a very sincere friend.

About fifteen days after I had this conversation with M. de Champigny, Mr. Prepont came to Fort Royal to inform the Governor of his intention of going to Marigalante, where he had a store-house; he had a brigantine and two shallops which traded to St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Dominica; (three of the Caribbee islands which were then in the possession of the French) he was going, he said, to make a trading voyage, to go from those islands to Marigalante, and load his vessel for St.

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Domingo, where he intended to traffic, and return with gold dust, dollars, mules, asses, Spanish tobacco, and cocoa. The French islands had been deprived of this latter article, by a furious tempest and earthquake; but as this circumstance has been fully related in Europe several times, I shall avoid mentioning the particulars. Coffee was used by the islanders in the stead of cocoa, which was all destroyed beyond recovery. At this time there were only very few spots of ground which produced coffee, but now it is a very considerable article of commerce in Martinico; the best grows at the foot of a mountain behind Fort Royal. This mountain is so very high, that in the clearest

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clearest day the top of it is scarcely to be seen ; it never is ascended unless by some of the run-away negroes, who have reported that there is ice on the top, which is very astonishing in a country, where all the seasons of the year are so very hot, that they never use fire in their houses.

As I was already well acquainted with this gentleman, and he had an esteem for me, I desired M. de Champigny to fix his choice upon him ; he did so, and after they had been alone about half an hour, I was called in. The Governor informed me that Mr. Prepont was willing, upon his recommendation, to take me along with him on his voyage,

and would be both a father and friend to me; that he did not doubt but I should answer the care and attention he would have for my interest; that he would order me a thousand crowns, which appeared to him enough for the first venture, as prudence required I should not risque much at first. I returned my most sincere thanks to the Governor; I shewed at the same time my approbation of the person he had fixed on, in the highest terms I could think of, and promised to comply with the desires of Mr. Prepont in every thing, and to act in nothing without his advice and consent.

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Mr. Prepont and myself had a long conference on the subject of our intended expedition, and we parted well satisfied with each other. Our departure was fixed for the 20th of January, and I took every opportunity the time afforded to prepare myself for the voyage.

I had been strongly attached to Miss Juliet V*** ever since my reconciliation with her; she seemed to return my affection with great sincerity, and had discharged the Chevalier G*** in a very cruel manner. We gave reciprocal proofs of our love; we swore eternal fidelity and constancy to each other: the sequel will shew how well we kept our oaths.

Martinico is the most considerable of all the French West-India islands; it is sixteen or seventeen leagues long, and about forty round. It is mountainous, and a great part of it very woody; there is one very considerable wood on the mountain behind Fort Royal; the land is fruitful, and produces sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo, rice, maize, miller, cassada, (the root of this small shrub is possessed of a strong, poisonous, corrosive juice, but when it is dry and powdered, mixed up again with broth or water and baked, it makes the bread that is used universally among the negroes, and very much among the white people or Creoles) potatoes, pines, oranges, citrons, lemons, cocoa nuts,

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(this fruit very much resembles in taste the nuts of Europe, and they contain within their shell a milky water which is very sweet and refreshing) bananas, Indian figs, dates, but not of the same kind as those I have seen in India, which furnish bread, wine and oil ; those that I now speak of, the inhabitants eat as salad with other things, and consider them as very delicate : it likewise produces plumbs, though very different from ours, (they are of a very harsh taste, and are eat only by the negroes) ; their apricots are as large as the head of a child six months old ; they are covered with a greyish rind or skin ; the fruit resembles the mushroom in appearance, is very compact, and of a fine flavor

flavor when stewed or pickled, for eaten raw, it is indigestible; its stone is so very hard, that it is with difficulty they break it. They have cherries also, but this fruit is rough and austere; though when they are fermented for five or six days in water with the scum of sugar, they make a very agreeable drink. They have a species of the apple too, which somewhat resembles a kind that we have in France; they are fixed to the branch of a tree by a nut instead of a stem, the kernel of which is very fine, and they are called cachen nuts: the apple itself is very hard, and eatable only when roasted. Cassia likewise grows here.

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This island abounds with serpents; the bite of some of them is mortal: it likewise produces a species of the caterpillar, which they call a beast of a thousand feet, very different from what we here call the millepedes; its bite is very painful, generally followed by a violent fever, which continues twenty-four hours, and sometimes more. There are abundance of musketos, a species of the gnat, the bites of which are almost insupportable, and it is with the utmost difficulty they can clear the apartments of them, or ever guard themselves from the inconveniencies they occasion. This island is also much tormented with a insect they call a chigger; it is inconceivably small, and insinuates

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insinuates itself into the skin, especially in the soles of the feet, where it causes incessant and violent itching, and in less than twenty-four hours it raises a large pustule, which they open with a pin, or the point of a pen knife, and take out the animal; it leaves a cavity with several eggs in it, and large enough to put in a pea. If these animals are suffered to remain long in the flesh, they generally occasion a gangrene afterwards; tobacco ashes, put into the cavity, destroy the eggs. They have abundance of fine turtles, and some of them so large as to weigh two or three hundred weight. They have a great many crabs, both red and white; shell fish in abundance; and oysters are often found fastened

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fastened to the branches of trees that have been accidentally thrown into the water.

The inhabitants of this and the other leeward islands are called Creoles. They are all of European original, (as the original natives of this island have been long destroyed) though somewhat changed in their manners, which may be in a great measure attributed to the difference of the climate. Their religion is the same as ours, and their customs. They have negroes which they purchase from the coast of Africa, to do the laborious work.

I have

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I have seen very fine raisins produced in this island by means of culture, though policy prevents them encouraging the planting of vines; as they want many necessaries, which they receive from Europe, and exchange for them sugar, cotton, coffee, indigo, &c. If they were to encourage the culture of vines, it would diminish the quantity of the other commodities they export, and for which they receive some necessaries they are in want of, whilst their raisins or grapes would be but of little value in most European markets.

There are several small rivers in this island, the water of which is very good. It is well inhabited, and divided into districts,

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districts, over each of which a captain of the militia, who is always a native of the island, presides; who gives an account to the Governor-general of every thing that passes in his part of the island, and every year gives in a list of all that are capable of bearing arms, which is laid before the general court.

The principal places in this island are, first, Fort Royal, which is the best situated and the strongest fortified place of any I have seen either in that or the adjacent islands. This is the place of residence for the Governor-general, a Major-general, two Adjutants, an Engineer, and a Captain of the Port. At the time I was there it was garrisoned with
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four companies of soldiers from France, and a company of Swiss, consisting of two hundred men. There are two large cisterns in it for water, barracks for the men, and a chapel.

In this road, which is an exceeding good one, all the vessels, which remain generally nine months in the year in the road of Fort St. Pierre, a trading town about twenty miles distance, come to shelter themselves from the hurricanes, which are here very frequent and terrible for the space of three months.

There is also in the town a King's physician and surgeon; there is also a treasurer, and a justice who is appointed by

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by the council of Martinico, which assembles every two months for the space of five days, to judge of all appeals that are laid before them. The council consists of the governor-general, who is president; the speaker, who collects the votes, and speaks the decision of the members, the deputy governor, the attorney-general, and eight other members. There is also a King's solicitor, whose office it is to prevent heirs at law being any ways injured or deprived of their property. There is only one parish church in this town, which is dedicated to St. Louis; it is served by the capuchins, who have a very pretty convent here, which is the only one in town.

Just

Just out of the town, upon the banks of a little river, is a very pretty house, built for the reception of the speaker during the sitting of the council, or whilst he chuses to reside in it.

A small distance from this house was a public hospital, supported by subscription.

The second principal place on this island is Fort St. Pierre, which is the only trading town in the island, and distant about seven leagues from Fort Royal. The lieutenant governor and the intendant, or the speaker of the council, make it the common place of their residence. There are two companies

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panies of French and a detachment of Swiss, an office for naval affairs, another of justice, where an officer presides as at Fort Royal, and is appointed by the council; a convent of Dominicans, and another of Jesuits. The town is very rich and well peopled, and the road affords excellent anchorage.

3. Trinity Fort, where there is a detachment of French.

4. Fort Marigor.

5. Fort de Mouillage, in which there are some companies of militia.

6. The river Salle, near which the King's lieutenant resided, who commanded the two latter forts.

The

The day of our departure being arrived, I took leave of the Marquis de Champigny and all my friends, and embarked with Mr. Prepont. We sailed first for Fort St. Pierre, to declare our voyage at the navy office, and the next day we set sail for St. Vincent's. We arrived there the third day after our departure from Fort Royal, and we found our brigantine at anchor in the road with the two shallops.

This is another of the caribbee islands; it is rather of an oval figure, being upwards of eight leagues in length, and about seven in breadth. The air is healthful, the island well peopled, and the land, though irregular, fertile,

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tile, and produces very fine tobacco. They grow the Turkey corn here, and very fine rice, potatoes and cocoa, with other articles of the common production of most of the islands. They have plenty of shell-fish, and some of them of an exquisite taste, such as the red crab, oysters, &c. They have also great plenty of excellent fish, and some few turtles; very many goats, and abundance of game. They have not many reptiles, though they have a great quantity of lizards of different species; they are four-footed animals, very harmless, without poison. Its latitude is 12. 50°.

There are many of the original inhabitants of these islands still remaining both
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at St. Vincent's and Dominica, and they are of two kinds: one are as black as jett. with short woolly hair, high foreheads, large eyes, a somewhat long nose, wide mouth, thick lips, and very white teeth. These are tall, well made, strong, robust, and of a pleasing countenance. The others are naturally of an olive cast, but they appear of the color of brass or copper, as they color themselves over every day, that they may be like those of St. Lucia, which I shall afterwards mention under the name of Red Caribbees. They are very active in their running and other exercises, and very expert in the use of the bow, which they employ in the chase. Their arrows are always poisoned;

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soned; they dip the points of them in a decoction of herbs, gums, and the mangerille apple, (a fruit common in most of the islands in the West-Indies; it is very fair to the eye, but is a mortal poison if swallowed, nay the lying under the tree has been known to produce fatal effects) which gives them a malignity that renders all the wounds mortal they occasion. They have another weapon which they use in battle; it is a large piece of wood, made in the club manner, about five or six and twenty inches long, and five or six thick at the bottom, which is gradually tapered to the upper part, through which is bored a hole, and a red cord is put through it, which serves to hang it upon their

wrist by. This wood is very hard and heavy, and of a greenish cast. For every enemy they kill or take prisoner, they make a notch on their club; and when there is a necessity of chusing a chief, that person is elected whose club has the most notches. The authority of the chief exists no longer than the cause that occasioned the necessity of electing him continues.

They are naturally graceful, well proportioned, generous, officious; not deceitful, but true and faithful in fulfilling their engagements; but revengeful to an extreme degree. They are temperate in every thing, except the use of a liquor, which is a kind of rum, made

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made of the scum of sugar and water fermented together, which they afterwards distil, and are very fond of. This liquor is very strong, and the strength of it, with the fumes of tobacco, which they smoke all day, sometimes stupifies them for the space of eight and forty hours, and sometimes makes them quite raving mad.

Their religion is very simple; they adore, under the name of Longus, the Creator of the world; they believe, that he possesses an unlimited power; that he always keeps thunder by his side, to terrify those who refuse to pay him his due worship; they adore only one God, and not several, as some historians have

reported, who have taken for deities the good and bad genii, which they admit of. There are some base men, who impose on the credulity of these people with impunity, and encourage them in their superstition from mercenary views. They have no priests, nor places dedicated to worship. They generally address their deity morning, noon, and evening in short ejaculations, raising their hands towards the sun, which they consider as his throne; and they are very much frightened when it happens to be concealed by a cloud. They have a great veneration for the moon; at every new one, they testify their joy by their cries, dances, and a thousand singular postures. They believe in the immortality

ality of the soul, which they place in the heart. They think there will be rewards and punishments after death, and are very strict observers of the laws of nature. They consider our missionaries as impostors, who only endeavor to seduce them. They say that they do not practise themselves, what they would make them believe is absolutely necessary to please God, therefore they can put no faith in their doctrines. It is very unfortunate that these people should have been so often witness to the divisions that exist between the missionaries of the different orders, their cabals, their quarrels, hatred, and sometimes the troublesome consequences that are the result of them. They seem to have

greatest veneration for the Capuchins; they love them, and will defend them if necessary. If they had never known any other, perhaps the Catholic religion would have been better received. These fathers appear more detached from the things of the world than the other orders, and live nearer to the doctrines they preach. These savages possess good sense and sound judgment; they are not learned, but they are honest men.

Their employment consists chiefly in the culture of those lands that they use for their subsistence. They are common, and serve indiscriminately to those that follow the chase. Their huts are
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built of wood, and covered with the sugar canes after the juice has been extracted out of them; they lie upon mats made of the same, which somewhat resembles those we use here.

In the middle of the hut they have a wooden box filled with ashes or earth to spit in. They are very civil to strangers, especially the French.

Their women are very chaste. Adultery is punished with death. And the unmarried are in general very chaste too, as their incontinence being once known, prevents them marrying afterwards. and polygamy is not common.

Both men and women go almost naked; they wear nothing except a piece of cloth round their waists. The women delight very much in necklaces and bracelets, which are made of coral, glass, or crystal. They wear in their ears plates of metal, which resembles gold in color. They are very industrious, and they travel much about the island.

The parents or nearest kinsmen make the marriage, by demanding a wife or husband for their children; then a pipe is presented to the destined bride, which she smokes, and presents it to the man designed for her husband, which he smokes too, if he consents to it.

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Both the copper coloured and the black savages resemble each other in every thing, except the former being more indolent, pensive, and melancholy; they think on the present, and no further. I shall have occasion to speak of them afterwards. If the account I have given differs from former ones by other authors, I have only to say, that I relate what I have seen myself.

We remained fifteen days in this island to take in ballast, water and wood. I made a purchase of tobacco, amounting to four hundred livres, Spanish money. It would have been happy for us, as the event proved, if we had loaded our vessels with that commodity.

We appointed Marigalante for the general rendezvous, if we should happen to be parted.

We left St. Vincent's the 7th of February, and the next day met with a most terrible storm, accompanied with the most violent thunder claps I ever heard, and scarcely the interval of a second between them. The heavens seemed on fire, the sea ran mountains high, and each wave seemed to threaten our destruction. Our masts were all carried by the board, and perhaps it was happy for us they were, as probably they would have been the cause of our oversetting. This tempest continued eight hours, and was succeeded by a calm,

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calm, we set up jury masts in the brigantine, and mended the sail in one shallop (the other having parted company) which was the only damage she had received; there soon afterwards sprung up a gentle breeze, which carried us safe to St. Lucia on the tenth of February in the afternoon, where we came to an anchor. After having given the proper order for the repairing of the brigantine, we went ashore to the house of Father Athanasius, a Capuchin, and great friend of Mr. Prepont, with whom he commonly lodged whenever he went to that island.

Father Athanasius was under great obligations to Mr. Prepont, who had
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done him a very essential piece of service, and there was the strictest friendship between them.

During the abode that we made in this island, which continued upwards of a week, a very singular adventure happened to me, which I shall here relate. We were hunting one day in company with two Frenchmen and a German, when being somewhat wearied with the chase, we sat down upon what seemed to be a tree, torn up by the late winds. I had not sat more than five minutes, when I felt a motion that seemed to me to be that of the earth ; upon my starting up suddenly, my companions were frightened, came up to me, and asked
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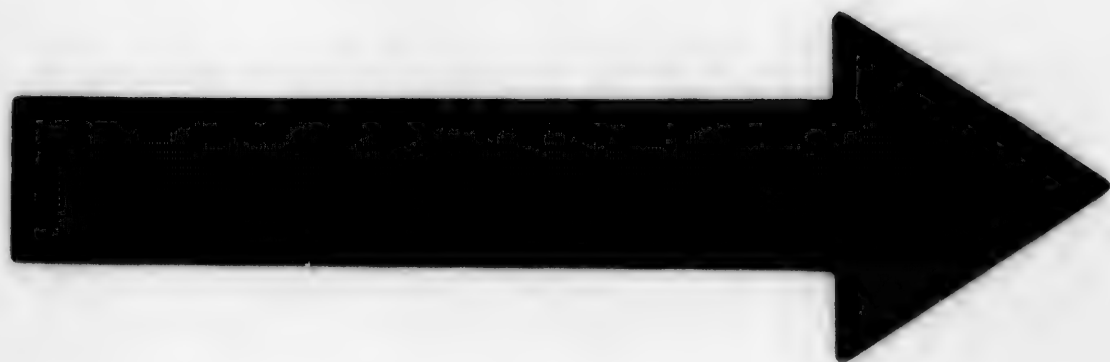
what was the matter? I told them I thought I felt an earthquake. We immediately fell with our faces to the earth and listened with our ears to the ground, if there were any noise. After having remained so for some minutes, we got up, persuaded that it was a mere chimaera; but casting our eyes to the side where we had sat, we saw, with the utmost astonishment, that our seat had changed its situation, and we perceived the head of a monstrous serpent, the body of which we had taken for a tree. We lost no time, but discharged our pieces at the animal, and killed it. It measured twenty-one feet in length without the head, and it was three feet some inches in circumference. They had never

never seen so large a one before on that island, though they frequently had them very large. We quitted the chace, and returned to Father Athanasius's with the monster, which we made the negroes skin and stuff. We sent it to the Marquis de Champigny, who carried it to France, and preserved it together with the head of a sea-horse that was made him a present of.

St. Lucia is about twenty-four or twenty-five leagues in circumference, nearly in the centre between Martinico, St. Vincent's, and Barbadoes. It has two considerable mountains in it, which would be as fertile as St. Vincent's, if they were as well cultivated. They have

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have great plenty of turtles, and an exquisite fish they call the doctor, as it has two points as sharp as lancets, which it can throw out at pleasure on each side the navel, which cut very deep, and the wound is very painful afterwards. No fish of prey, even the shark when hungry, ever attempts to swallow these, upon account of their lancets. In the latitude of this island there is great abundance of sharks, which is called dog-fish by several; it is the most voracious of all fish. I was one day a witness to a shocking scene; a young fellow, cleaning the outside of a vessel in the road at Fort Royal, fell over board, and before he could gain the ship, which was scarcely a minute, one



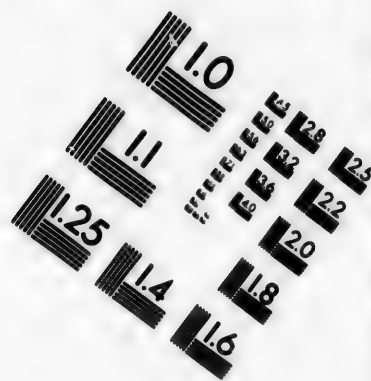
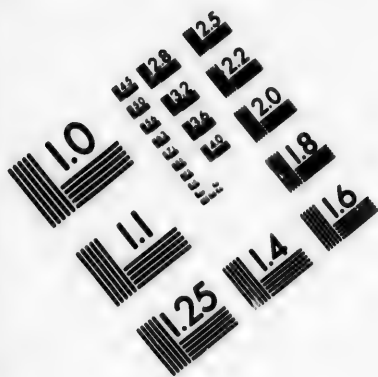
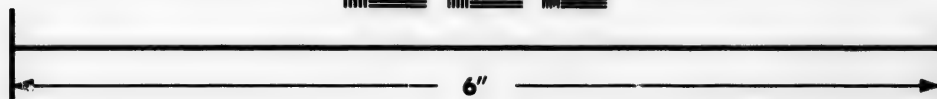
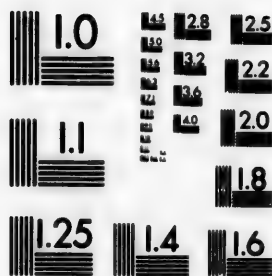


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one of these fish took off his legs about eight inches above the knee, and before he could be laid hold of by any of the crew, another came and finished him. These accidents happen frequently at these islands; they are sometimes thirty feet long, and have so wide a throat, that they could swallow a man whole if his head was presented. I am almost induced to believe that it was one of these fishes which swallowed Jonas, and not a whale, which has a very narrow throat.

There are many crocodiles in this island; they are amphibious animals, [and make sad devastation, if not watched and guarded against. The natives kill

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them very frequently with their arrows, or they would not be able to live in the island.

The natives of this island are of the copper color, though naturally only of an olive; but the means they use to change their complexion have gained them the name of Red Caribbees. I saw no black savages in this island, as at St. Vincent's and Dominica. They are of low stature, badly made, short face, little eyes, sloping forehead, broad flat nose, and have long black hair. They bathe almost all day, and rub their joints with oil to make them supple, and enable them to be active and expert in their exercises.

Their

Their disposition, manners, religion, occupations, and customs, differ but little from those of the Caribbees of St. Vincent's. They go almost naked as they do. They pass through their noses, which are bored as well as their ears, a little bit of wire, at the ends of which they fasten small plates of yellow metal.

The Caribbees of this island preferred the people of France to those of any other kingdom, as much as those of St. Vincent's, of which they gave a convincing proof in the year 1725.

One evening that Mr. Prepont and myself were at supper with Father Athanasius,

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Athanasius, he informed us, that in the eleven years he had been in that island, he had baptized six hundred children, and some of them near ten years of age. This Capuchin had gained the esteem and friendship of the savages so much, spoke their language so well, and treated them with such softness, that they made him frequent presents of all the dainties the island afforded. He hoped, he said, that if God preserved his life ten years longer, he should be able to make them true Christians, by instilling into them the practice of all the moral virtues, and destroying their vices. He took care, he said, not to speak too openly of their customs, as they were very jealous of them; and in so doing he might, in a short

short time, destroy all he had hitherto done; that he had desired of his superiors an assistant in his functions, that he might teach him their language, which was very difficult, and in the end leave him his successor.

Father Athanasius lived in a pretty good house; it was divided into six little chambers, in five of which he had beds, and the sixth he kept for eating in. He had a kitchen separated from the house, in which he had a fire-place, an oven, and all the necessary utensils for a small family.

Before the dining room there was a large garden, in which was his chapel, dedicated

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dedicated to St. Trinity. It was very spacious, and would easily contain more than a hundred persons. The whole was inclosed by a strong fence ten feet high, made of a very hard wood, the name of which I have forgot. He lived very happy here, for both men and women were ready to give him every assistance he wanted.

On the 19th of February, our brigantine, being sufficiently repaired, we thanked Father Athanasius, with whom we had lived since we came to the island, gave him two Spanish pistoles each, and went in the evening aboard our vessel.

The

The next day, at seven in the morning, we weighed and sailed with our brigantine and shallop for Dominica, where we expected to meet with our other shallop. We arrived there the 22d, about three in the afternoon, but the commander of the other shallop, having taken in wood and water, had sailed in the morning for Marigalante, where he knew we should follow him; we left Dominica, and stood for Marigalante the next day.

Dominica is another of the Caribbee islands; it is about fourteen leagues long, five wide, and thirty-five round. It is inhabited by Caribbees, or savages of two colors, as St. Vincent's; they go almost

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almost naked, and are the same as those of St. Vincent's in their dispositions, manners, occupations, customs, and religion. Here are plenty of crabs, of both the red and white kind, all sorts of shell fish, plenty of fish of all kinds, and turtles. They have but few reptiles; there is one they call the dog's head, from its head being thick and short like that of a young whelp; the body is like that of a serpent; it is not venomous, nor troublesome, unless attacked, when it bites like a dog; it destroys fowls, rats, and every kind of bird it can catch; it ascends the trees to devour the young ones in their nests; it affords an oil that is very efficacious in the gout, sciatica, and rheumatism.

Here

Here are crocodiles, but they are very rare.

This island is level and even, the land not very fertile, but affords excellent water. It has abundance of doves and partidges; these latter are very large, and are of a better taste than those of Europe. It is in the latitude of 15 d. 30°.

On the 23d, at six in the morning, we weighed anchor, and sailed for Margalante, where we arrived at seven in the evening, and found our other shallop, which had arrived the evening before. We came to an anchor, and saluted the town with seven pieces of can-

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non. Mr. Prepont and I went ashore, to make a visit to the Governor, who was the Marquis de Poincy (and a relation of the late Marchioness de Champigny), for whom I had a letter from the Governor-general. He detained us to supper, after which he made me so many intreaties to live with him during the time we continued there, that I could not avoid promising him to come again the next day, and accept his invitation. I was somewhat troubled however to quit Mr. Prepont, who expressed the greatest friendship for me, which I returned with the greatest sincerity; but he was determined to sleep aboard, that he might, by his presence, keep the crews belonging to the vessels in good

order, and forward the ladings of them.

About eleven the next day I went ashore, sent my baggage to the Marquis de Poincy's, where I followed it in an hour. I found there a select, though numerous company, not only of officers, but of the inhabitants of both sexes. After dinner the company engaged at ombre in different parties; I refused playing, because I did not like the game. An officer, about thirty years of age, captain of a company of militia, who that day dined at the Governor's, with his mother and sister, who had been a widow about a year, though then only eighteen years of age, and myself,

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continued idle and unemployed. He proposed a game at piquet to me, at a piastre a fish, (a piastre is worth about five shillings sterling); I accepted the challenge, and won seventeen fish of him: undoubtedly the smallness of his fortune made him sensible of the loss, for he appeared very much piqued, and in seeking his revenge he lost eleven more. Whilst we were playing, I saw that his lovely sister had tears in her eyes, and could with difficulty support the ill luck of her brother; this affected me very much, and when the party was finished, her brother, throwing down nine Spanish pistoles to pay me, I asked him if he was dreaming, saying, that he owed me no more than three piastres,

and a half at a shilling a fish, as we had played, (a shilling is about seven-pence three farthings sterling); he swore that he had proposed a piastre; that I had consented; that he was not a child, and he thought I was determined to affront him; I answered him that I had understood him a shilling only, otherwise I should not have accepted the proposal, as my fortune would not permit me to play for such considerable sums, and that if I had lost I should have paid him no more. The Governor hearing the debate, and asking the cause, was of my way of thinking upon hearing the whole story, and the officer was obliged to take up his money again, except three piastres and a half. I was charmed to

see

see joy return into the eyes of the sister, who, as well as the mother, complimented me very much.

As soon as the company had retired, and the Marquis and myself were left alone, he asked me to tell him sincerely whether we had played for a piastre or a shilling. I could not avoid telling him the truth, with my remarks and conjectures; he praised my disinterestedness very much, but he was ignorant of the cause: for, to speak sincerely, it was rather the effect of an inclination that the sister had inspired me with, and I was glad of an opportunity of gaining her esteem and friendship, by an act of generosity. The Governor informed

me, that the fortune of that officer, whose name was M. de Chanzy, was very narrow; that the sudden death of a brother-in-law, who had married his sister about eight months before he died, and had left no children, had given a new expence to the family; that, excepting his love of play, which he understood but very little of, he was the most amiable man in the world.

It was now two days since I had seen Mr. Prepont, who was employed in loading his vessels; I began to be wearied, and went aboard to him the third day. "What! have not you quite forgot me then?" he said, as soon as he saw me. This reproach affected me;

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I threw myself on his neck, embraced him, and protested that nothing would ever be capable of making me forget his friendship. I related the whole of what had happened at the Governor's with M. de Chanzy, without suppressing any circumstance of it. He perceived that I wished to say something more than I had yet done, and asked me what it was. "Your uneasy air," he said, "distresses me very much; what has happened to you? Do not be afraid of discovering yourself to me; you ought to know me; you know that I am entirely at your service, therefore deal ingenuously with me, and discover every thing; I am able to give you good advice, and

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" you

“ you may depend upon my secrecy
 “ and sincerity.” -I told him that he
 injured me in believing I concealed any
 thing from him ; that nothing had hap-
 pened since I left him, except the affair
 of M. de Chanzy ; but apropos, I con-
 tinued, “ do you know Mrs. Chanzy?
 “ Her polite behavior to me deserves, I
 “ think, that I should make her a
 “ visit ; besides, it will be a place where
 “ I can sometimes pass an agreeable
 “ hour after the dulness that must inevi-
 “ tably attend at the Governor’s, where
 “ every thing is very serious ; and I
 “ should be glad to find a person
 “ to introduce me there.” He an-
 swered me with a smile, that she was a
 a very intimate friend of his ; that he
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approved very much of my intentions, independent of Mrs. Chanzy, who was a woman well respected ; that I should also find her daughter, who was called Mrs. Norsoy, and was a young widow, very amiable, possessed a great share of merit, which was joined with great beauty, a fine understanding, and the sweetest disposition imaginable ; that he did not doubt she would be happy in the desire I had expressed of being acquainted with her ; that to shew he was not a dupe to his own opinion, and to prove his regard for me, he would that day, immediately after dinner, make the visit I desired ; but he wished that he might not have reason one day to repent of his complaisance to me.

It was about noon when we went ashore, and after we had dined, we went to Mrs Chanzy's, whom we found accompanied only by her daughter. The charms of Mrs. Norfoy, which made a very strong impresson on me the day I saw her at the Governor's, now affected me so much, that all the faculties of my soul seemed suspended. I never in my life saw so beautiful a woman as Mrs. Norfoy was, and I believe no man ever made so truly ridiculous an appearance as myself. It was with the utmost difficulty that I could make any answer to the many obliging things the ladies said, and they were such as would shew, that I thought of nothing less than what I said. When we took our
leaves,

leaves, Mrs. Chanzy invited us to dinner the next day. As soon as we were out of hearing, Mr. Prepont laughed at me excessively, and told me that I ought to think myself very happy in the many sallies of wit that had that day escaped me, and he did not doubt but the ladies would have a great opinion of the fineness of my understanding. Taking a more serious air, he desired that when I had any design to play such a scene over again, I would engage another to introduce me. Then, taking me by the hand, he said, "Ah! my friend, you
 " are struck by an unlucky little deity.
 " Reflect a moment upon it; it is not
 " yet too late to conquer; upon your
 " account I wish most sincerely that I
 " had

“ had compleated my lading and could
 “ depart to-morrow; but I will use
 “ every means to hasten it, and as we
 “ cannot avoid dining there to-morrow,
 “ I desire you will not make so ridicu-
 “ lous an appearance as you have done
 “ this afternoon.” — Upon our arrival
 at the Governor’s, he promised to call of
 me at noon the next day, and returned
 aboard.

It may be readily supposed, that I
 had no great appetite for my supper,
 therefore I feigned to have the head-ach,
 that I might retire to my apartment.
 When alone, I reflected upon my inci-
 pient hope, which I only knew by name
 till that time, and considered the trou-
 ble some

ble some consequences that might result from my cherishing it, as it might render me miserable the remainder of my life, especially as necessity compelled me to prosecute my voyage: indeed the necessity was increased, if I thought of forming a connection with Mrs. Norsoy, as we were neither of us possessed of a fortune; and the endeavouring to acquire one, might perhaps separate me for ever from the object I adored: nevertheless, the want of it was for the present an invincible obstacle to my wishes, and to wait in expectation of what I might *possibly* possess, was perhaps deferring my happiness to a distant period, which my impatience could not brook the thoughts of; yet I considered, that

I might

I might not perhaps expect a return of affection, she might consider a declaration of my love as an act of gallantry. After having passed half the night in these reflections, I resolved to hazard a declaration, and the following were the reasons which determined me: if she is offended with it, I said to myself, I will endeavor to cure my passion, and not suffer it to take a deeper root, and for that reason will hasten our departure; if on the other hand she receives it favorably, or should make only some trifling objections, I shall have a sensible pleasure in obviating them; if I am happy in my first attempt, I may soon expect a return of affection, and we may afterwards

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wards wait till prudence and opportunity permits our union.

Miss Juliet V*** was sometimes an unwelcome intruder, but I always viewed her with the circumstances of the ring ; she is false ! I cried ; she has no cause for reproach ! the history of the ring, as she related it, is fictitious ! what reason have I to believe the Chevalier G*** disguised the truth ? He has told the story such as it really was ; he does not understand finesse ; besides, so egregious a fool could not invent such a falsehood, to conceal the truth. It is therefore Miss V***, I continued, that has deceived me ; I abandon her, and will think of her no more. Thus resolved, I
en-

endeavored to sleep, but in vain; I arose therefore at six, and took a walk upon the terras before the house.

About noon Mr. Prepont came ashore, to take me with him as he promised the evening before, to dine with the ladies, which I took the precaution of informing the Marquis de Poincy of in the morning.

The loss of my meals (for I had eat nothing since I left Mrs. Chanzy's), and the perplexities in which I had passed the last twenty-four hours, had very much affected my countenance. As soon as Mrs. Norfoy saw me, she cried out, "Good heavens! how you are
" changed!

“ changed ! what can have caused such
 “ a revolution in you since yesterday ?”
 “ Your charms, Madam,” I answered,
 in a very low voice. “ I am really
 “ very sorry,” she said, with a smile ;
 “ I did not believe them so powerful :
 “ but what can I do to repair the injury
 “ I have done you undesignedly ?”
 “ Give me half an hour’s private audi-
 “ dience, Madam ; I have very essen-
 “ tial things to communicate to you, on
 “ which depend the happiness or misery
 “ of my life.” My tongue stopped
 here, and my eyes spoke the rest. She
 considered for a moment, and walked
 to the window, where I followed her.
 “ You will find me, Sir,” she said,
 “ upon the shore this evening ; I shall
 “ go

" go there with my negro woman ; I
 " commonly walk there every day, and
 " I will hear what you so much wish to
 " say, and hope my advice will be
 " able to restore you to health, which it
 " certainly will, if you follow it." We
 then joined the company.

Whether what she had said induced
 me to hope, or whether the effect of a
 happy foresight, I knew not ; but I was
 extremely gay during dinner, said a
 thousand agreeable things, and let se-
 veral fallies of wit escape me.

Immediately after dinner Mr. Prepont
 quitted us to look after his affairs. I re-
 mained with the ladies some time longer,
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and upon my leaving them, desired the permission of visiting them sometimes; they consented, and I retired to consider of the happiness I should experience at the hour of assignation.

As I was walking pensively along, with my eyes fixed on the ground, I ran against a person whom I found to be Mr. B*** when I looked up; he had lately taken possession of his employ, and had made his first voyage to Mari-galante, in one of the King's pinnaces. He told me that he had but just arrived, and was going to the Marquis de Poincy with letters from the Governor-general, where he desired me to conduct him.

I con-

I conducted him to the Governor's, and he delivered his letters to the Marquis; who, after he had read them, said to me, "I have orders to delay the departure of Mr. Prepont; desire him to come and speak to me in the morning." This I presently executed, by a letter I sent to him aboard ship.

It was already near seven o'clock; I made a sign to B*** to follow me; he took his leave of the Governor, who invited him to dinner the next day, and we went to walk till nine o'clock.

As soon as I heard the clock strike, I quitted B*** with a promise of seeing him

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him again the next day, and went towards the shore, where I was to meet Mrs. Norfoy, who was already arrived. I soon saw her, and immediately felt the most distressful palpitation at my heart; I bowed to her with fear, and her slave retiring behind her at some short distance, I said, "I am come, Madam, to receive
" from your own mouth the assurance
" of an eternal felicity, or the sentence
" of death." I was thus going on to deliver myself in a speech, which I had studied, when she stopped me, by telling me, that she knew all I wanted to say; that from the first time of her seeing me at the Marquis de Poincy's, she had remarked my sensibility, whilst I was playing with her brother; that she had
not

not changed her opinion from the ingenious means I had used to avoid taking his money; and that she perceived I had acted in that manner from the good opinion I entertained of her; that she had been so much surprized at the singularity of my behaviour, during my visit the preceding evening, as at the change she had observed that morning; that her uneasiness upon that account had induced her to meet me, to endeavor to cure me of a foolish passion, that would be prejudicial to both. I was willing to interrupt her here, but she stopped me, by desiring that I would have patience till she had finished, when she would hear what I had to say, and she thus continued: “ I shall have

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“ but very little to support me after the
 “ death of my mother, as I have no
 “ fortune of my own, except the slave
 “ behind me and another. The sud-
 “ den death of my husband prevented
 “ him providing for me: such is the
 “ situation of my affairs, now let us ex-
 “ amine yours. To tell you the truth,
 “ I do not believe they are in the hap-
 “ piest state; for if you had been in-
 “ dependent, you certainly would not
 “ have crossed such an immensity of
 “ water, to endeavor to increase the in-
 “ dependency you already enjoyed at
 “ home; I think you would not have
 “ exposed yourself to the risques inse-
 “ parable to a mercantile life. You
 “ ought therefore to observe, that every
 “ thing

“ but

“ thing opposes the union that you wish
 “ to have with me, for I cannot believe
 “ that you have any other designs, with-
 “ out doing an injury to myself; there-
 “ fore now you may speak : I permit
 “ you.”

I remained almost insensible for a short time, but recovering the use of speech, “ I perceive, Madam,” I said to her, “ all the force of your reasons; they would shake any person who loved less than myself; without absolutely opposing them, I will at least demonstrate to you, that it is very easy to arrange matters in such a manner, as to conduce to our common happiness, if you feel the senti-
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" ments for me, that I experience for
 " you. My present fortune, it is true,
 " is but small; it consists only of a
 " thousand piaftres of my own, and I
 " have received a thousand more from
 " the Governor-general to trade with;
 " with these foundations, if I am for-
 " tunate, and nothing extraordinary hap-
 " pens to me, more than other mer-
 " chants who trade, I hope that after
 " three or four voyages I shall be able
 " to offer you a fortune worthy your
 " acceptance. You must acknowledge
 " therefore that probability is on my
 " side, and what is there that should
 " prevent us waiting the event? I
 " wish for your own sake that you had
 " an independent fortune to bestow on
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“ the man you thought worthy of you,
 “ but as that is not the case. I only beg
 “ leave to confess my love to you when-
 “ ever opportunity presents, in the
 “ hopes of being one day able to gain
 “ your esteem. To that favour deign,
 “ Madam, to add another, that is, to
 “ permit me to write to you during my
 “ absence, that I may by that means
 “ give an account of the progress of my
 “ affairs, which, from the moment of
 “ such permission, will become your
 “ concern ; and, to complete my hap-
 “ piness, promise me that you will not,
 “ during three years, enter into any en-
 “ gagement contrary to my wishes, as
 “ I am certain I shall obtain the good
 “ wishes of the Marquis de Champigny

“ for

“ for my happiness, who will readily
 “ procure the consent of my family.”

“ You have arranged every thing in
 “ the best manner,” she said to me ;
 “ but who will answer to me for your
 “ constancy ; you are young, and a
 “ Frenchman, the two greatest obsta-
 “ cles to constancy and fidelity that I
 “ have an idea of. You are now in a
 “ climate that does not commonly pro-
 “ duce ungrateful, perjured, or unfaith-
 “ ful men ; but your passions are vio-
 “ lent, and generally but of short dura-
 “ tion : for the heart is seldom the part
 “ affected with you. I am notwith-
 “ standing willing to believe, that at
 “ present you feel what you speak ; but

" alas! the first pretty object that pre-
 " sents herself before you in the place
 " you are going to, will make you for-
 " get all your oaths, and you will per-
 " haps return again to me, only to
 " have the cruel satisfaction of shewing
 " that you have sacrificed me to an-
 " other."

" I will suppose for a moment, Ma-
 " dam," I answered her, " that the
 " country in which I was born, has
 " produced some monsters, such as
 " those you have painted; but I
 " hope that you would not infer
 " from thence, that it produces only
 " such base men; you have formed
 " your general opinion from some few
 " particular instances; but how unjust
 " is

“ is such a conclusion ! a heart like
“ mine, sensible of the laws of nature,
“ never contracted by any bond, cor-
“ rupted by neither bad counsel or bad
“ examples, merits your good wishes.
“ Yes, my adorable conqueror, I take
“ heaven to witness, that till now I ne-
“ ver knew what love was, that my de-
“ signs are honorable, and that I will
“ sooner cease to live than cease to
“ love you.” “ It is enough,” she said;
“ I believe you ; I will not dissemble
“ with you ; I will confess that you
“ have pleased me, and that I wish you
“ to be really such as you appear to be,
“ and as you say you are. I will con-
“ sent to every thing you have desired,
“ but it is upon condition that you re-

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“ quire

“ quire nothing more; otherwise I this
 “ moment swear, that I will never see
 “ you again.

“ As your views are legal and ho-
 “ norable” she continued, “ you may
 “ impart our intentions to Mr. Prepont,
 “ who is very much respected by my
 “ mother, and engage him to mention
 “ it to her, and procure her approbation,
 “ which will prevent me being wearied
 “ with importunities for bestowing my
 “ hand, before the time that you have
 “ fixed. May heaven preserve you
 “ faithful to me, and that I may not be
 “ deceived in the confidence I have re-
 “ posed in you. Make yourself happy
 “ in the confession I have made to
 “ you,

“ you, and as it is now late, let us re-
“ turn.”

A person must love as I did, to be capable of representing to himself the extreme joy and pleasure I received from this answer. It was then near ten o'clock; I took the hand of my charmer, which I kissed a thousand times, and led her home, where, from the joint intreaties of the mother and brother, who were there at that time, I stayed to supper.

It was midnight when I retired to the Governor's; he had waited for me till eleven, intending to have been witty upon my staying so long at Mrs. Chanzy's,

which by that means I escaped and retired in peace.

I never passed a night so agreeably without sleep, the very approach of which I shunned by every possible means, but I was obliged to yield to nature about five o'clock in the morning, and at ten Mr. Prepont entered into my apartment, from his visit to the Governor. He told me, that he had orders from the Marquis de Champigny to return immediately to Fort Royal with his brigantine in ballast only, and he desired to know if I intended to return with him. This was a thunder stroke to me; I immediately saw that it was impossible for me to refuse, without run-

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ning the risque of displeasing the Marquis de Champigny : therefore I did not hesitate, but said I would accompany him with pleasure. I desired the favor of him to wait, till I had dressed, upon the terras, as I had something of importance to communicate to him. He complied, and I presently afterwards joined him : I gave him a minute detail of every thing that had passed the preceding evening between me and Mrs. Norsoy, without omitting the most trivial circumstance. During all the time I spoke, I saw him attend to my words with an air of astonishment which surprized me ; but I did not suffer him to continue in it long, for at the end I engaged him to serve us, and to speak

of it even the same day to Mrs. Chanzy.

“ Things are now advanced to that
“ state which I would wish to have
“ avoided, even if it had cost me half
“ my cargo,” Mr. Prepont answered.
“ How much do I repent my complai-
“ sance for having introduced you in
“ that house! You have made great
“ advances in a short time, but who
“ could have foreseen it? If you are
“ as successful and speedy in your mer-
“ cantile affairs, as you have been in
“ gaining the heart of Madam Norfoyl,
“ you will soon be as rich as an Em-
“ peror, or even the Great Mogul.
“ But raillery apart; I am very much
“ afraid

“ afraid of this connection distressing
“ both of you, in a manner you but
“ little think of at present ; but how-
“ ever it is done. I will not comply
“ with what you have desired of me,
“ unless you promise to communicate
“ every thing that occurs between you.”
I immediately gave him my word to
keep nothing secret from him. Upon
his leaving me, he said, “ I am going
“ from this place to Mrs. Chanzy’s, but
“ before my speaking to her, I shall be
“ glad to have an opportunity of speak-
“ ing to her daughter ; I will take care
“ to delay dinner, and do you come to
“ me in about an hour afterwards,
“ when they will certainly detain you :
“ but do not to-day as you did yester-
“ day,

“ day ; go immediately to the Marquis de Poincy, to apologize for yesterday evening.” I threw myself on the neck of that admirable friend ; I thanked him, and intreated him to be favorable with Mrs. Chanzy and Mrs. Norfoyl ; he promised me, and he kept his word.

Immediately after he had left me, I went to the Marquis de Poincy, in his study, who informed me of the orders he had received from the Marquis de Champigny, which commanded Mr. Prepont to return immediately to Fort Royal with his brigantine in ballast, but left it to my own option, whether I would

would continue there, or accompany Mr. Prepont.

I told the Marquis that it would afford me infinite pleasure to remain with him, but my gratitude and inclination would not suffer me to lose such an opportunity of shewing to the Governor the sense I had of his favors. He praised me very much, and told me he would give me a letter for him, which would contain an account of the death of Mons. de Varigny, captain of a company of Buchaneers, (which was one of the most distinguished posts in the militia) that the second captain had possessed it for six days, and he proposed to the Governor

vernor to give it to another officer, whose name was Pindrè.

I took the liberty of asking him why he did not think of M. de Chanzy, who had been near twenty years in the service, was older than the officer he had named, and besides he was one of those officers who had accompanied the Marquis de Champigny, when he was Governor of Fort St. Pierre, in driving out the English from the island of St. Lucia. As I spoke to him with a warmth, that shewed how much I had the interest of that officer at heart, he said, "I plainly see, my friend, that the ardent desire you express for the preferment of Mons. Chanzy arises from your being

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“ ing seduced by the charms of his
“ sister, for I know no other cause that
“ could thus interest you in his fortune,
“ as you have been acquainted with
“ him only so short a time ; but what-
“ ever it is, I wish you both well. Do
“ not however be offended when I
“ tell you, that the Lady is not rich,
“ and that you are very young to think
“ of a serious engagement.” “ That,
“ Sir, is not the only motive that ani-
“ mates me,” I said ; “ and I beg your
“ interest to procure the appointment
“ for him.” “ I have given my word
“ to Mons. Pindre,” answered the
Marquis, “ and all that I can do is to
“ propose your friend also ; I will do
“ justice to both of them, and it will be
“ in

“ in your place to engage the Governor
 “ to chuse the person you wish to
 “ oblige ; I have no objection to him,
 “ but as I have given my word to re-
 “ commend the other, I cannot re-
 “ cede.”

I thanked the Governor for his good-
 ness, and took my leave of him, saying,
 that I was going to dine with Mr. Pre-
 pont ; “ Who undoubtedly then dines
 “ with Mrs. Chanzy,” he answered.
 “ Adieu, I wish you all the pleasure you
 “ desire.” The blush overspread my
 face ; I took my leave again, and de-
 parted.

It

It was not an hour since I had parted with Mr. Prepont, when I arrived at Mrs. Chanzy's; I seemed to be surprized at meeting with Mr. Prepont, in whom I remarked a sullen air, which was by no means a good omen, I thought, especially as I did not see Mrs. Norfoy. After sitting about a quarter of an hour, I got up, under pretence of going away, but Monf. and Mad. Chanzy oppose it. At length I saw Mrs. Norfoy appear; she gave me a gracious smile, and sat down near Mr. Prepont, whose countenance did not change. Soon afterwards Mrs. Norfoy, addressing herself to me, said, "I find
" you are going to leave us, Sir, and
" are to depart with Mr. Prepont in a
" few

“ few days for Martinico; however,
 “ you are left to your choice either to
 “ remain here or go.” “ It is true,
 “ Madam,” I answered; “ but if I
 “ deprive myself of the pleasure of see-
 “ ing you for some time, it is from my
 “ desire to serve you in the person of
 “ your brother, and by that means
 “ giving you a proof of my sincere at-
 “ tachment to you and your family.
 “ It needs such a motive to induce me
 “ to a sacrifice, which will cost me very
 “ dear.” To leave her no longer in
 suspense, I gave her an account of every
 thing that had passed between me and
 the Marquis de Poincy, and continued,
 addressing myself to her brother, “ If I
 “ should succeed in obtaining you this
 “ com-

“ company, which I have not the least
“ doubt of, I will undertake something
“ more for you, which I will impart to
“ you at a proper time ; depend upon
“ my using every means to promote
“ your interest ; I shall inform the Go-
“ vernor of your family and services,
“ and shall particularly remind him of
“ your accompanying him on his expe-
“ dition to St. Lucia. I shall think
“ myself happy if my zeal for your in-
“ terest renders me worthy of your
“ esteem and friendship.” After having
received the thanks of the family, Mr.
Prepont drew me to the window, and
said. “ Since fortune, my dear friend,
“ has procured you so happy an occasion
“ of obliging the brother of Mrs. Nor-
“ foy,

“ foy, I do not despair of seeing you
 “ one day at the summit of good for-
 “ tune, for she seems to turn herself ac-
 “ cording to your desires.” (Alas! he
 was very far from then foreseeing how
 low I should be precipitated in the se-
 quel.) He continued, “ I have spoke
 “ to Mrs. Norfoy; she loves you at
 “ least as much as you do her; her
 “ mother consents to every thing that
 “ tends to promote the happiness of her
 “ daughter, and you come in an instant
 “ to conquer, in the person of her bro-
 “ ther, the only obstacle you had to
 “ encounter; for I do not doubt but his
 “ gratitude will lead him to consent to
 “ every thing that you wish: however,
 “ I believe it will be prudent not to
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"inform him of any thing at present."
"sent."

We rejoined the company, who had passed into another apartment, and sat down to table; I was placed between the brother and sister, each of whom expressed the greatest attention to me. The former invited me to go to sup with him in the evening at his own house, where he had promised to return to some company, and he would accompany me back the next day, if I would stay the night with him. I excused myself, under pretence of taking some measures that were necessary previous to my voyage, and said it would not be polite to be absent a night from the
Gover-

Governor's, when I was near departing, but added, that I thought it would be right in him to wait of the Governor the next day, to thank him for his good wishes; and said, that at my return it would give me a singular pleasure to pass some days with him in the country. As M. Chanzy was obliged to go home, he made his apology to the company, mounted his horse, and rode off, after having promised to wait of the Governor early the next day:

Mr. Prepont, who wanted to give some orders to his men left us soon afterwards; I passed the remainder of the day with the ladies. Towards nine o'clock I accompanied Mrs. Norfey to the

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the place where we had walked the preceding evening. Two new lovers have often so many things to say, that they know not how to begin; we continued silent for a considerable time; at length we began to complain of the necessity of my absence; we gave each to the other the strongest protestations of fidelity and love. After we had passed an hour in thus exchanging vows, I waited on my Lady home, who, for the first time permitted me to embrace her, and I returned to the Governor's.

The Marquis de Poincy asked me whether I had informed my friend of what I had done for him; I answered him, that he was very sensible of his
good-

goodness, and would not fail waiting of him the next day to shew his gratitude.

“ I am not sorry for having obliged

“ you,” said the Governor “ but at the

“ same time I reproach myself for my

“ own indiscretion, for I cannot help

“ pitying M. Pindré, who is a very

“ honest man, a very good officer, and

“ in short better deserves this place than

“ your friend, although he has been

“ longer in the service than M. Prindrè:

“ besides, he is related to the first fa-

“ milies in the colony, who will not

“ fail of supporting him with all their

“ credit, when I recommend him to the

“ Governor-general; therefore I can

“ assure you, you will have many power-

“ ful obstacles to overcome, and it is

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“to console you, that I make you per-
 “ceive the refusal you will most pro-
 “bably meet with from the Governor ;
 “but that you shall not attribute it to
 “me, I will suffer you to read my letter
 “before I seal it.”

Although I was then very young, and
 had but little experience of the world,
 it was not difficult for me to see, by the
 manner in which the Marquis delivered
 himself, the trouble I should have to
 surmount to serve my friend. I laid my
 plan, and resolved to communicate my
 thoughts to no one, and to act in the
 mean time as circumstances required.

The next day M. Chanzy waited on the Governor, who embraced him, and in the most engaging manner detained him to dinner; after which I accompanied him to his mother's, where we found Mr. Prepont, who had waited for us with as much impatience as Mrs. Norsoy, to learn how things had passed at the Marquis's, which M. Chanzy gave a very favorable account of. I avoided saying any thing of the conference I had had with the Governor, lest I should make them lose their courage, or diminish the esteem he expressed for me, and by that means injure me in my amour. As I passed by the door the next morning about ten o'clock, I saw Mrs. Norsoy's female slave standing at the door,

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and asked news of her mistress, who in-
formed me that she was alone in her
chamber. I took the advantage of the
opportunity to paint to her the excess
of my love, and to receive a tender re-
turn. Whilst I was embracing her, I
took the liberty of kissing her neck ;
she retired with precipitation, and look-
ing at me very angrily, told me, in a
manner that shewed her chagrin at the
same time, " You may depart, Sir, as
" soon as you please ; you are too af-
" suming, and not respectful enough
" to the woman you pretend to love ;
" I know your nature well, and fear
" that I shall have reason to repent my
" ever listening to your passion ; how-
" ever, for this time I pardon you, but

“advise you not to repeat such a liberty, if you would avoid meeting with all my indignation.” I threw myself at her feet, wept, and shewed the greatest distress at having offended her; I succeeded at length in my endeavors to make my peace; my manner affected her so much that it even brought her tears, and we were beginning to mingle them together, when we heard Mrs. Chanzy. I took a seat at some little distance, and it being near twelve, returned to the Governor’s, where I found Mr. Prepont, who dined with us; he came to inform me that we were to depart the next day but one for Fort Royal, that I might take my measures accordingly.

The

The Governor led me into his study after dinner, and gave me the letter to read which he had wrote to the Governor-general in favor of Mess. Chanzy and Pindré. It recommenderd both equally; in short, it was such a letter as he had promised to write; he sealed it, and gave it to me at that time, as he said he should the next day go to pass some days in the country, where he was engaged, and had proposed taking me with him, if I had not departed for Martinico. I thanked him for the many favors he had conferred on me, and demanded his permission to send my baggage aboard that day, as I intended to sleep there that night, that I might put my things in order; I beg-

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ged him to permit me the honor of taking my leave of him at that time; he consented to it, embraced me, and returned with me into the hall.

Immediately afterwards he took Mr. Prepont to the window; as I saw it was an affair of business, I took my leave and gave my baggage to a negro to put aboard of the ship. At my return from the shore I met Mr. Prepont, who was seeking for me; he had, as well as myself, taken his leave of the Marquis. We went together to give orders to the master of one of the shallops to see our things conducted safe aboard, and to return ashore to wait for us.

From

From thence we went to Mrs. Chanzy's, who appeared surprized to see us so late; but when we had informed her of what we had done, Mrs. Norfoycried, "I am really very glad, we will pass the evening together; and since you are to depart in two days, we flatter ourselves, Sir," addressing herself to me, "that you will not leave us, for there is now no longer an excuse to go to the Governor's, and you are not in the situation of Mr. Prepont, who has business in the town and orders to give aboard; my brother comes this evening, and we will amuse ourselves." "What! Madam," I said to her, looking at her at the same time with the utmost tenderness,

derness, "do you also forbid me a little walk upon the shore, to try whether the fresh evening air will not cure my head-ach, which I have very bad?" "I see you are not well," she answered, "and I will permit you to go on condition that I go with you, lest you should be guilty of any indiscretion, and make it worse." We were not absent more than half an hour, and I employed the time in making her confirm the pardon she had granted me in the morning, to receive a new confession of her sentiments for me, and to renew my promises to her. We found at our return Mr. Prepont and Mr. Chanzy, who waited for us to supper, and I passed

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one of the most agreeable evenings of my life. It was almost one o'clock before we thought of returning aboard, when, to make my satisfaction more complete, Mr. Chanzy proposed to give me his bed or a hammock in his room; observing that Mr. Prepont had no objection, I determined to accept the offer.

Mr. Prepont rejoined us the next day at an early hour; the discourse between Mrs. Norfoyl and me turned the whole day on the necessity of our separation; but the promotion of her brother, and the hopes of a speedy return, soothed us in some measure: at length the hour being come which we appointed to

go aboard, we took leave of the ladies, and Mr. Chanzy, who promised to come to bid us adieu and breakfast with us the next morning; accordingly at eight o'clock they came aboard; we gave them a genteel breakfast, which Mrs. Norfoy and myself scarcely tasted. Our adieus were of the tenderest nature, and our protestations of the sincerest; but as it is impossible to describe the scene, let it suffice that we parted. I then gave a free course to my tears, and abandoned myself to a melancholy, that with difficulty my friend could recover me from.

It was near eleven o'clock when we weighed anchor, and we stood immediately

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diately for Martinico. During this short voyage, as I thought incessantly of the surest means of succeeding in my scheme in favour of Mr. Chanzy, I recollected the behaviour of M. de Poincy. I asked Mr. Prepont what the Governor had said to him in the conversation they had together; he said, nothing of importance had passed, except that on his giving him four letters for the Marquis de Champigny, he had expressly ordered him to give that that he had particularly marked, immediately upon his arrival, into the Governor's own hands. I immediately suspected the contents of that letter; therefore, without communicating any thoughts to Mr. Prepont, as I knew it must be at least seven o'clock that

that evening before we should arrive at Fort Royal; I laid my plan accordingly. In short, we did not come to an anchor before eight.

As Mr. Prepont was preparing to go ashore with me, I observed to him that as the garrison shut at nine, it would be much better to defer his visit to the Governor till the next day, whilst I would acquaint him with the reason of it; he thought my proposal rational, but was willing to give me his letters: I excused myself from that office, by observing that he was ordered to deliver them himself, and added that I had other reasons to prevent me, which I would

would inform him of when time and place presented an opportunity.

As soon as the Marquis de Champigny saw me, he said, "I well knew that you would return with Mr. Prepont; I have occasion for his brigantine to execute the orders I have received from court, which are to visit the government of Guadalupe; and the King's frigate, which is now in the road, is ordered, after conveying me there, to sail immediately for St. Domingo, without waiting for my return: for this end I want Mr. Prepont's brigantine; I am sorry to hinder your voyage for near two months,

“ months, but the King’s orders make
 “ it necessary.”

As he had at that time a great deal
 of company with him, I begged a private
 audience for a few minutes. He
 arose immediately, and conducted me
 into his study, where I said to him,
 putting the Marquis de Poincy’s letter
 into his hand at the same time, “ You
 “ have promised me, Sir, to seize every
 “ occasion that presented itself to
 “ serve me; there is now an opportu-
 “ nity of doing me a signal favor,
 “ which I am going to ask of you,
 “ and hope you will not refuse me.
 “ There are two gentlemen who
 “ the Marquis de Poincy proposes to
 “ you

" you in that letter to fill a vacant
 " place ; one of them is named Chanzy,
 " he is the person for whom I in-
 " terest myself strongly, and dare
 " say that he deserves the preference.
 " He is one of the best families in the
 " island, has been near twenty years in
 " the service, has had the honor of
 " shewing his bravery when he accom-
 " panied you in your expedition to St.
 " Lucia, where he was very much dis-
 " tinguished. His family is intimately
 " connected with Mr. Prepont, and
 " during the time that I remained at
 " Marigalante, I received the greatest
 " civilities from them." I then gave
 him an exact account of every thing
 that had passed on the subject between
 the

between the Marquis de Poincy and myself, except our last conference.

That generous friend, after having read his letter, embraced me and said to me, "When you have such trifles only to demand of me, it will never be in my power to refuse you; therefore you may go and order the secretary to make out the commission this evening, if you please, and I will sign it before I go to bed." I took his hand, which I kissed, notwithstanding his endeavors to prevent it; and taking the advantage of his good humor, I intreated him to use his interest to procure my friend a commission of the order of the cross of St. Louis, which

which I knew he had already procured from court to several officers. He immediately gave me the order for his secretary, and continued, " I expect every
" day brevets from court for all the
" militia officers, who henceforth will
" rise to military honors equally with
" other officers ; that is a good piece
" of news for you to communicate to
" your friend." He then returned into the hall, where the company waited.

I did not lose a moment, but went immediately to the secretary, who, to oblige me, filled up a commission in my presence, and put my friend the third upon the order of St. Louis. After supper I took the commission to the
Go-

Governor-general, who signed it that evening; after the seal had been put to it, he presented it to me, accompanied with many obliging compliments; I put it into my pocket, and retired to bed.

The next day, about nine o'clock, I saw Mr. Prepont arrive. I met him, and drawing the commission out of my pocket, I informed him of my good success the evening before, which he congratulated me upon very sincerely. "I am indebted for it, in some measure, my dear friend," I said to him, "to your complaisance yesterday evening, in remaining aboard." "I don't understand you," he answered;

"do

“ do you believe me capable of injuring
 “ you ?” “ No,” I said, “ but your
 “ letters would.” I then informed
 him of the last conference I had with
 the Marquis de Poincy, of my suspi-
 cions of that gentleman in giving him
 letters with so much secrecy, rather than
 deliver them to me as he had done
 others ; I told him I believed that all
 his letters were in favor of M. Pindré,
 and tended to exclude Mr. Chanzy, and
 that from those suspicions I engaged
 him to stay aboard that night, that I
 might take the advantage of his absence ;
 that as every thing had succeeded as I
 wished, I was no longer unhappy for
 the consequences ; and as he was going
 to wait of the Governor, he would be
 able

able to determine, by his conversation, how well my suspicions had been founded; and I desired he would conceal nothing from me. I then conducted him to the hall, and waited without for his return, or that I might be near at hand, in case the Governor wanted me. I had not waited more than a quarter of an hour after Mr. Prepont's entrance, before the serjeant of the guard came to inform me that the Marquis de Champigny wanted me. Although I had done nothing that deserved reproof, I became as pale as a ghost at this command. Upon my entering the apartment where the Governor was, he cried out, "What is the
 " matter with you, my dear child?
 " Don't

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The Chevalier DUPONT. 165

“ Don’t be terrified ; what is done, is
“ through your interest with me, nor
“ do I repent of it ; I am acquainted
“ with every thing, and praise your
“ prudence for it very much, which is
“ not the common appendage of youth ;
“ for if I had received the letters Mr.
“ Prepont has brought me at the same
“ time I received yours, I know not in
“ whose favor I should have deter-
“ mined ; but you have been more po-
“ litical than my couzin, who will be
“ justly punished for his dissimulation
“ with you, when he knows of the ad-
“ vantage you have gained over him.
“ As for myself, I don’t condemn you
“ in the least, but shall only recom-
“ mend to you the care of not employ-

“ Don’t

“ ing

“ ing your power to the injury of an-
“ other person.”

We then went into the hall, where the Governor had ordered a gentleman to wait for him; Mr. Prepont and I went to walk upon the terrass, where he said to me, “ If you have any com-
“ mands to Mrs. Norsoy, make your
“ dispatches ready immediately; I
“ shall send a shallop to-morrow to
“ Marigalante to the commanders of
“ my vessels there, with necessary or-
“ ders for them. I shall return here
“ to dinner, and you may then give me
“ your pacquet, which shall be punc-
“ tually delivered: you may even make
“ a merit of sending the shallop to Mrs.
“ Norsoy,

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“ Norfoy, whilst I shall write that I
 “ took the advantage of that opportu-
 “ nity.” Sure never was another man
 of such an excellent disposition as Mr.
 Prepont, who was more than a father
 to me ! He loved me as his son ; but I
 had the unhappiness of losing him about
 four years afterwards, at a time that his
 life would have preserved me from in-
 numerable misfortunes.

My good friend had no sooner left
 me than I went into the secretary’s of-
 fice to write the following letter :

“ Judge, my adorable Victoire, if I
 “ have lost a moment to serve you ;
 “ you will find inclosed a letter from
 “ the

“ the Governor-general to the Mar-
 “ quis de Poincy, in which is inclosed
 “ the commission for your dear brother.
 “ It is necessary that Mr. Chanzy goes
 “ immediately to wait on the Gover-
 “ nor, and he must not be surprized if
 “ he should receive him with coolness.
 “ This commission will soon be ex-
 “ changed by a warrant from court,
 “ which will be accompanied with a
 “ decoration that your brother little
 “ thinks of. The Marquis de Cham-
 “ pigny has done every thing in his
 “ power to this end; if Mr. Prepont
 “ should chance to write by the means
 “ of my shallop, you will see that I
 “ have been prudent in acting as I
 “ have done, without which we should
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" have run the risque of not succeeding. You owe my success in this affair to the little urchin, who amidst the counsels he gave me, furnished me with this stratagem, which has succeeded. Notwithstanding that, his usual inconstancy makes me tremble, and I fear I shall some day have reason to curse his fickleness. But do not imitate him, my dear Victoire, unless you would kill the man, who of all your admirers is the most tender, sincere, and faithful.

" The Chevalier DUPONT."

When Mr. Prepont returned, I read my letter to him, and made up my
VOL. I. I paquet

pacquet and gave it to him; at the same time desiring him to tell the negro to whom he gave it, to deliver it into Mrs. Norsoy's own hand; he promised me, and said he would take the same opportunity of writing to that Lady.

My mind being composed, my heart contented, my love satisfied, free from all the cares that had disturbed me since my departure from Marigallante; in short, my constitution, which would not admit me of my making love as an angel, made me think of Miss Juliet V***, therefore I asked after her: I was informed that Mr. Ek***, a Swiss officer, never quitted her,

her, and that they had neither of them gone to the last ball. In the situation I was then in this news ought to have had no effect on me, but however it hurt me very much. What ! I said to myself, are these the protestations of fidelity that she has made me ? O perfidious, ungenerous wretch !—But immediately reflecting upon my own conduct, I acknowledged my injustice, and confessed that I was at least as culpable as herself. Of what have I to complain ? I continued ; is not our inconstancy mutual ? Are not our injuries equal, consequently my reproaches unjust ? I will go to see her however, and renew my affair with her, which will be an amusement to me whilst I remain

here. My rival will undoubtedly burst with despair and vexation, when he sees the preference given to me; it will be very well, the greater the triumph for me; therefore the more agreeable.

Having taken my resolution, I went to pay her a visit, and found her alone in an elegant dishabille. "How charming you are, my dear Juliet!" I said to her, embracing her at the same time. "What are you there?" she answered; "I thought you were among the Spaniards by this time." "I have been no further off than Margalante," I replied, "from whence I have been recalled by the Governor's orders, and I arrived here yesterday

“terday evening at nine o’clock.”
“You have been returned then twenty-
“four hours, and at length come to
“see me, as a proof of the violent love
“you have told me you felt for me ;
“certainly you must have left your
“heart at the place from whence you
“came.”

“How unjust you are, my dear
“Juliet ! the Marquis de Champigny
“has engaged me every moment since
“my return till the present time,
“which I have eagerly snatched to re-
“new the protestations of my never-
“ceasing love ; but I see plainly that
“you wish to quarrel with me ; per-
“haps Mr. Ek*** has desired it, for it

" is said that he never quits you, and
 " that you are so happy in the com-
 " pany of each other, that you were
 " neither of you at the Governor's last
 " ball. This reproach seems better
 " founded, Madam, than what you
 " have made me ; for you will never
 " have a rival in my love,"

" You are either badly informed,
 " Sir," said Miss V***, " or you
 " have put a bad construction on what
 " has been told you ; but I am less
 " surprized at it, as it is your disposi-
 " tion : jealousy is so very predominant
 " in you, that unless you endeavor to
 " correct it, you will one day or other
 " suffer severely from it." Alas! she
 did

did not imagine how true a prophetess she was; it is however to that cursed fault, in great measure, that I am indebted for the largest share of my misfortunes.

Miss Juliet went on with saying,
“ This is the last time that I will ever
“ give myself the trouble to undeceive
“ you. If you believe me, it may be
“ happy for yourself; but henceforth
“ do not so readily conclude upon re-
“ ports that are circulated from malice,
“ or from such slight appearances that
“ have before deceived you: if on the
“ other hand you do not believe what
“ I am going to say, we will imme-
“ diately break off all connections, as I

“ shall directly conclude that was the
“ intention of your visit.

“ It is now about fifteen days since
“ Mr. Ek*** declared to me the sen-
“ timents he possessed for me. But
“ less timid with my sister, he before
“ that time mentioned them to her,
“ and engaged her to speak to my
“ mother in his favor; as she agreed
“ to comply with this request, he took
“ the liberty of telling me of his pas-
“ sion, and desired my consent for
“ him to speak to my mother. His
“ designs you see are honorable, as he
“ intends to marry me; that ought
“ to calm you; but it is not sufficient
“ for myself; a few days afterwards he
“ paid

" paid my mother a visit ; after being
 " alone for about a quarter of an hour,
 " they entered into the hall together,
 " where I was then sitting, and taking
 " him by the hand, she presented him
 " to me, saying, My dear, this gentle-
 " man desires the honor of your hand ;
 " he is a worthy officer, an honest man,
 " and a gentleman ; he possesses a for-
 " tune, and he loves you ; I desire you
 " will receive him favorably, and re-
 " turn his affection. What could I
 " do but obey ? It is true that I was
 " not at the last ball, but I was not
 " very well, and was afraid dancing
 " might increase my indisposition. Mr.
 " Ek***, who idolizes me, supped here,
 " and kept me company the whole

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“ evening. He has scarcely ever quit-
 “ ted me a moment since ; he loves me
 “ to distraction, whilst I have not the
 “ least regard for him ; nay, a jealous
 “ disposition, which I have remarked
 “ in him at different times, makes me
 “ detest him. I wish to find means to
 “ break with him, for I have deter-
 “ mined to engage my sister to ac-
 “ quaint my mother with my dislike
 “ to him, that I may get rid of his
 “ addressess. It is very happy for you
 “ that chance has brought you here the
 “ day which he is on duty at the gar-
 “ rison, otherwise it would have been
 “ impossible for us to have had this
 “ explanation.”

Taking

Taking her hand, I said, " Oh, my
 " dear Juliet, you restore life to me ;
 " what monster is there that could be
 " insensible of your kindness ? I shall
 " never pardon myself. I swear by
 " yourself, by your charms, by the love
 " you have inspired me with, that I
 " never will give you the least chagrin
 " again." I embraced her, and du-
 ring the remainder of the afternoon we
 exchanged protestations of our love.
 Before my departure I made her promise
 that she would come to the next ball,
 as we should have some new company
 from the King's ships then in the
 road.

As

Taking

As I was returning to the Fort I met Mr. Prepont, who informed me that he had given our pacquets to the Master of the shallop, who was to depart the next day for Marigalante, and he should take that opportunity of going to Fort St. Pierre, where he had some business that would detain him a few days. He desired me to be easy, that he had given very careful orders about the delivery of my packet, and was certain I should have reason to be pleased. We then parted.

As soon as I arrived at the Governor's I reflected upon my infidelity to Mrs. Norfoy. Are these the oaths and protestations I made to her? I cried. O heavens!

heavens ! if she should hear of my connection with Miss Juliet V***, she would never pardon me, and death would certainly follow her resentment. But can she place any faith in Platonic love ? My temperament leads me to intrigue.

Alas, Mrs. Norfoyl is much deceived if she thinks Platonic love exists any where now ; it was very well in the ancient Romans and enthusiasts, but it is not the taste of the present age, and it is necessary to comply with a custom, or we make ourselves ridiculous ; besides, this amour is only *en passant* ; I am on the eve of my departure, and dispositions may change ; my warmth of constitution



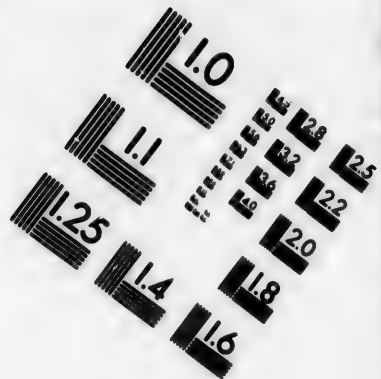
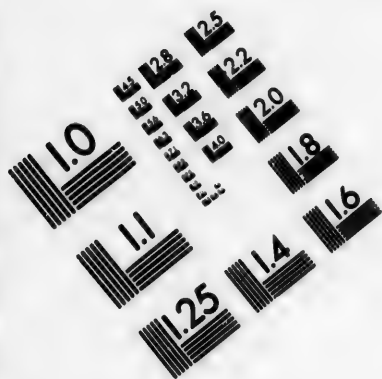
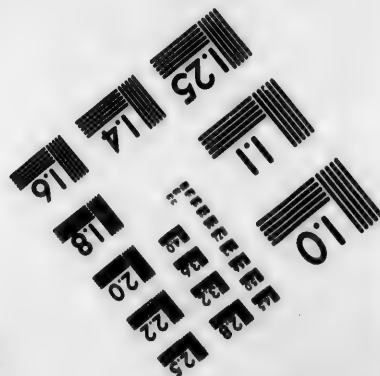
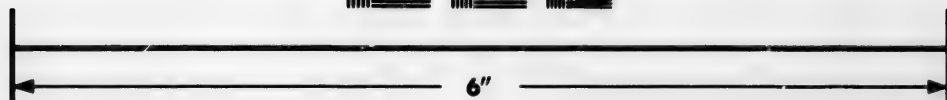
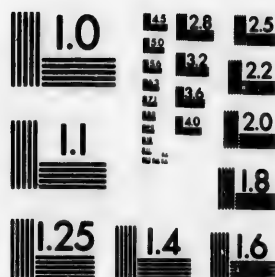


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stitution may relax; then it will be time enough to practise this great virtue, and make a merit of the weakness of nature. I had no occasion for further reflections to banish the first, which had given me some uneasiness.

I passed the first days that followed after these reflections very happily, and hearing that the Marquis de Champigny proposed to invite some day to dinner all the King's officers belonging to the frigate, those of the counsel which was then sitting at Fort Royal, with all the officers of the garrison, and afterwards intended to give a ball, I proposed to take that opportunity of satisfying myself amply with my dear Juliet, for the
constraint

constraint I suffered from the Swifs, not having been able to see her a single moment alone since our explanation.

At length the day arrived, and offering my service to the Marquis de Champigny to fetch the ladies, I found there the amiable Mr. Ek***. That did not prevent me embracing Miss Juliet V***, who gave me a very kind reception, but I observed Mr. Ek*** made a frightful face at the sight. I pretended not to see it, and went immediately to Mrs. Rupert; when they were ready, Miss Juliet V*** came to me and took my arm, and Mr. Ek*** saw himself obliged to present his to her sister. As we followed Mrs. Rupert very slowly,

slowly, I was more than once induced to fear that my rival would break his neck, or at least occasion a wry one, by turning his head so frequently to observe us.

Upon our arrival they formed parties at cards; Mr. Ek***. was engaged with Mrs. Rupert, but Miss Juliet and myself declined playing. Some business calling me out, I met Juliet at my return on the terras; we indulged ourselves in protestations of our love, and returned well pleased with each other's sincerity. Mr. Ek***, who was of a very jealous disposition, kept his eyes always upon us when we were in the room, and seemed a good deal discomposed:

posed. We laughed, and were very merry together during the whole entertainment. We took the proper arrangements to see each other privately sometimes, notwithstanding the close attendance he gave her; but our measures became useless, as the sequel will shew.

When the ladies were retiring, I presented my arm as usual to Miss V***. Mr. Ek*** was obliged to do the same to Mrs. Rupert, when after taking leave of them, we retired together. As soon as we were got a little distance, and none present except ourselves, Mr. Ek*** said to me, in very bad French, "Do you know, my little Sir, that I pay
" my

“ my addressee to Miss Juliet V***,
 “ that I am authorized by her family,
 “ and that your visits are disagreeable
 “ to me? Therefore I desire you would
 “ no more set your foot within their
 “ doors, unless you are determined to
 “ be the victim of my resentment.”

Being a good deal piqued at this
 speech, and the tone in which it was
 pronounced, I answered him, that his
 intentions were of no consequence to
 me, and that nothing should prevent me
 acting as usual. “ Oh! Oh!” he re-
 plied, you are resolved it seems, and I
 “ see that you are determined not to
 “ hear reason, till I have cut your ears.”
 My answer was with my sword drawn
 ready for engagement, but at the first
 thrust

thrust I received a wound in my sword arm, which disabled me. A serjeant of the guard, who had seen our duel, ran up, bound my arm with my handkerchief, and conducted me to the Fort. I should have been glad to have had this affair concealed, but it was impossible.

As soon as I arrived at the Fort, I laid myself down, and sent for the King's surgeon, who immediately came to dress and bleed me. As I had lost a considerable quantity of blood by this wound, besides what the surgeon took from me, I fell into a swoon, which continued half an hour, and was surprized, upon opening my eyes, to see the Governor-general, who had already been

been apprized of the duel. He asked me the cause of it ; I said I believed it was a jealousy ill grounded on the part of Mr. Ek***, who had insulted and threatened me, which I laughed at, and in consequence of warmth in both parties I had been wounded. I begged of him at the same time not to punish the officer. " If I saw this affair in the light you do," the Governor answered, " I would grant your request, " but in this circumstance I cannot " comply with your desire ; besides, he " has transgressed very much ; compose yourself however, and he shall " only suffer a few days arrest ; forward " your cure as much as you can, that " you may be in a condition to go " with

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"with me to Guadalupe in fifteen
"days."

My wound was not very large, but I was obliged to keep my bed for three days for a fever that came on. My apartment was never empty during the whole time; I not only received the visits of my friends, but those of the officers of the garrison, who unanimously condemned the conduct of their comrade.

My health was no sooner re-established than I waited on the Marquis de Champigny to thank him for his tenderness, and likewise to procure the liberty of Mr. Ek***, who was still under

der arrest, though I had interceded for him several times.

I went the same day to see Juliet whom I thanked, as well as her mother and sister, for the concern they had shewn for my accident, and their goodness in sending twice a day during my confinement to enquire after my health. After a short silence, Mrs. V***, addressing herself to me, said, "Mr. Ek***
 " will never quarrel with any person
 " again upon account of my daughter,
 " for I have wrote to him to desire that
 " he will not trouble himself to come
 " here any more. We don't love
 " jealous people in this country." And Miss Juliet maliciously added, "It is
 " proper

"proper to punish them when they be-
"come troublesome." I bit my lips
with vexation; she saw it, and laughed
very heartily.

As I was walking two days after-
wards upon the terras I saw Mr. Pre-
pont arrive, to whom I gave a detail of
my little adventure. He pitied me,
and wished me joy at the same time that
it was no worse; but holding out his
hand, "There (he said) is what will
"comfort you; it is an answer from
"Mrs. Norsoy to your letter." It was
couched in the following terms: "With
"what rapture, my dear friend, shall
"I embrace you when I see you again!
"What zeal and assiduity to oblige!
"Mr.

“ Mr. Prepont gave me an account of
 “ your intrepidity in surmounting all
 “ difficulties that tended to prevent
 “ your success, and assures me that my
 “ brother is indebted entirely to your
 “ prudence for his preferment. I can-
 “ not express the sentiments your good-
 “ ness has inspired me with; I must
 “ reserve the declaring of them till I
 “ see you. I should do you an injury
 “ to doubt the sincerity of your love;
 “ be assured of my constancy; you
 “ wrong me if you fear it; I will never
 “ cease loving you, while you are faith-
 “ ful to your friend,

“ VICTOIRE.”

I kissed

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I kissed

The Chevalier DUPONT. 193

I kissed this charming epistle a thousand times, but I soon forgot the conditions on which Mrs. Norfoyl promised me her love.

The brigantine being ready to accompany us to Guadalupe, we fixed our departure for the 26th of March, to give time sufficient to Captain Saussaye of the frigate to wood and water, which began to fail him.

During this interval Mr. Chanzy arrived to return thanks to the Governor, who received him in the most polite manner; he informed me that he had observed a very great coolness in the Marquis de Poincy, when he delivered

VOL. I. K him

him the letter; and seeing him again two days afterwards, he then told him that he ought to esteem himself very happy in having found such a friend as me, and would advise him to keep me such; but he could not conceive by what miracle I had gained the ascendancy over all the great people who had interested themselves in favor of his rival.

As I was afraid Mr. Chanzy would perceive the connection I had with Miss Juliet V***, and mention it to his sister, I behaved very much upon the reserve to her before him, whenever we were in company together. I took every opportunity that the few days before

our

our departure presented me with, to procure him every amusement the place afforded. The time of our departure being arrived, he took his leave, and we embarked on the 28th of March on board the frigate, accompanied by the brigantine, and sailed about four in the afternoon for Guadalupe, where we arrived the next morning.

This island is about sixty leagues in circumference, and is but a small distance from Deseade, Marigalante, Montserrat, and Dominica. A river, which empties itself into the sea, divides it into two parts. There is a good fort, and a Governor constantly resides in the island. There is a court held here,

which refers to the superior council of Martinico in weighty affairs. There are also four convents inhabited by Jesuits, Dominicans, Carmelites, and Capuchins, who supply all the parishes in that isle and the adjacent ones. It is mountainous, and very fertile in producing sugar, indigo, &c. and large quantities of cotton. There is plenty of game, doves, and partridges. There is also a small quadrupede that is nearly of the size of a leveret, which is very nimble; its head resembles a rat's, its ears are short and round, its skin red and rough, its tail short, and has no hair on it; it holds its food between its fore feet when it eats, sitting upon its haunches like a squirrel; its flesh tastes

tastes like venison, and is very good.
The air is wholesome, and there are few
reptiles in the island.

When we had been there eight days,
Capt. Saussaye of the frigate informed
the Marquis de Champigny, that if he
would not remain at Guadalupe more
than a few days, he would wait to carry
him back to Martinico; this offer made
the Governor resolve to send back the
brigantine to Fort Royal, to send the
arms she had taken aboard, and permit
her to sail for Marigalante directly.

As I had no pleasure at Guadalupe, I
was glad of the event, as it would en-
able me to see Mrs. Norsoy much sooner

than I had expected; but I soon altered my opinion; I escaped the greatest danger in a miraculous manner. In consequence of the orders of the Marquis de Champigny, we embarked on the 8th of April, and sailed about three in the afternoon for Fort Royal. We were too secure, I may say too negligent, especially the officers, who left the fire-arms in the possession of the soldiers that were aboard, when they ought to have locked them up.

We had not been embarked more than hour, when I saw a negro come upon the quarter-deck to Mr. Longvilliers, who commanded our vessel, and with terror in his countenance heard him
give

give an account of a conspiracy and plot that had been laid by a French and Swiss serjeant, who had corrupted the two detachment of soldiers we had aboard. They proposed to seize all the officers and passengers, and to shut them up in the round house, the door of which was to be guarded by two of the conspirators, and to oblige the pilot to sail for St. Thomas, one of the West-India islands belonging to Denmark, where they proposed going ashore, and leave us to sail for Martinico. If they had kept to this design the consequence would not have been so bad, but a Parisian, named Duhamel, naturally of a seditious and revengeful disposition, who had not forgot some

strokes of a cane that he justly merited, and had lately received from Mons. Jarrier, first Major, resolved to be revenged, and thought of killing all, except the pilot and sailors, and afterwards to sell the vessel and divide the money amongst them. During this discourse of the negro with Mr. Longvilliers, two soldiers, who were upon the watch, perceived the fellow's violent emotion, and fearing what might succeed, they informed their comrades in an instant that their plot was discovered, and they all cried out together, "To arms! To arms!----Fire! Fire!----Kill them! Kill them.-----" The effect immediately followed, and there was a discharge of more than forty pieces at

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us. Major Jarrier received a ball in his shoulder, and more than twenty thrusts of bayonets in his body, which killed him on the spot. M. Mestrezat, a Swiss officer, received a ball in his stomach. I received one in my hat, and another ball grazed on my thigh. One of the guards of the Marquis de Champagne, named Bezy, had his brains shot out. Duhamel was for killing me, but another soldier interposing, the ball only grazed on my right hand. Their fury being somewhat mitigated, they were content with guarding us in the cabin. Our surgeon dressed the wounded, and none died afterwards from their wounds. The only persons who fell victims to this revolt were Major Jarrier

and Bezy; they ordered the pilot to sail for St. Thomas's, where we came to an anchor on the 18th of April.

Immediately after we came to an anchor these deserters went ashore, and made their declaration to the Governor of the garrison, according to custom. We soon followed them, and after giving an account of all that had passed, we begged to have the fellows put into our possession, which the Governor refused us, saying, that St. Thomas's was a neutral isle, where all deserters were welcome, and that one of his predecessors had lost his head for having given up four. We observed to him, that the present case was very different; as
those

those he spoke of were only deserters; but these we demanded were murderers and robbers, besides deserters, for they had taken the money and effects of those they had killed; that it was contrary to common justice to afford an asylum to such wretches, and was encouraging vice instead of punishing it. We could obtain nothing more from the Governor than his promise to put the men in prison, till the arrival of one of the principal members of the supreme council of Copenhagen; whom he hourly expected; that he would lay the whole affair before him, and act by his opinion; by which means, he added, with a smile, he should preserve his head upon his shoulders, where he chose

chose to keep it as long as he could. He invited us to dine with him the next day, and entertained us very genteely. He gave us a letter for the Marquis de Champigny; we returned aboard in the evening, and immediately sailed for Fort Royal, where we arrived on the 13th.

As soon as the Governor saw us, though he was at a considerable distance, he cried out, "In the name of the devil, from whence came you? I thought you had been taken by pirates; you ought to have been here three weeks ago." "True" answered Mr. Longvilliers, who immediately gave him a recital of what had happened,

pened, with the letter from the Governor of St. Thomas, which the Marquis opened directly. After he had read it, he was violent at the Governor's refusal, swore he would have justice done or lose his life; blamed the commander of the brigantine for not locking up the arms, and ordered him to be confined. He very much pitied the fate of Major Jarrier, who was one of the bravest and best officers in the colony, and regretted the loss of Bezy his guard. As the latter had left a widow and family helpless, he promised to procure a pension of five and twenty pounds a year for her life and that of her eldest son.

He

He gave orders for all the largest vessels in the road to be immediately armed, and gave the command of them to Mons. Karny, Major-general over the troops belonging to the colony, a man in whom he reposed great confidence, and gave him a letter for the Governor of St. Thomas. He demanded of him in that letter, in the name of the King, the delivery of the deserters up to him, and in case of a refusal, he ordered Major Karny to treat the Danes as enemies, to take every Danish vessel he could meet with, and he would be responsible for the consequences.

This embassy was attended with the desired success, and in less than three weeks

weeks Major Karny returned with forty-five of our deserters, four others having died at the hospital in the island. They were chained two and two, and in that manner confined in the fort. Their punishment was soon inflicted; there was a council of war, consisting of French and Swiss, held for four days, and they condemned those unhappy wretches to the punishment due to their crimes.

I was informed, upon my arrival, that Miss Juliet V*** was upon the point of marrying very advantageously with the son of one of the principal inhabitants of Fort Trinity, who was very rich; she confirmed the report on the first visit

visit I made her, and my first motion
 was to upbraid her with her inconstancy.
 "How unjust you are!" she said to
 me; "you cannot surely be so ignorant
 "as not to know, that a daughter ought
 "at least to have very plausible excuses
 "for not complying with the desires of
 "her parents and friends; I am not
 "rich, and is it necessary for me to lose
 "the little sense nature has bestowed
 "on me, to refuse so advantageous an
 "offer; nothing prevents my compli-
 "ance, as you will still be my friend,
 "and I shall always see you with the
 "greatest pleasure." I perceived the
 strength of her arguments, and made no
 more objections; I visited her several
 times during the seven or eight days
 that

that I continued at Fort Royal, and it was after my return from my voyage that I learned the fate of the deserters.

The arms being landed from aboard the brigantine, and every thing ready for our voyage, I took leave of the Governor-general, who gave me a letter for the Marquis de Poincy, another for Mr. Prepont, (who was then at Marigalante) and one to Monf. Roche-Allard, Governor-general of St. Domingo. I embarked on the 8th of May, at seven in the morning, and arrived at Marigalante the next day at six in the evening, where we anchored between the two shallops belonging to Mr. Prepont.

Hearing

Hearing that he was aboard one of them, I went directly to him. It is not possible to express his joy at the sight of me, nor the excessive friendship he shewed for me. I found that he was informed of all that had happened to us, of the danger we had gone through, and of our arrival at Fort Royal, by means of a letter which he had received the evening before. He told me that he had been to acquaint Mrs. Norfoy and Mrs. Chanzy of the affair; that he had the utmost difficulty to compose them, and they would not believe I was alive till they saw me.

He informed me at the same time, that the Marquis de Poincy was gone

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to pass six weeks at St. Louis, distant
two leagues from the shore; that in the
conversation he had had with that Go-
vernor, he remarked his being very
much piqued at the preference that
had been given to Mr. Chanzy; that
he seemed to be very sorry he had given
me the letter for the Governor-general,
but he could not believe he possessed
such a weakness for me. This account
opened my eyes; I applauded myself
very much for my conduct on that oc-
casion, and I determined never to be a
dupe to appearances again. I was de-
termined however to desire Mr. Chanzy,
as soon as I saw him, to lend me his
horse to go to St. Louis with the Gover-
nor's letter to the Marquis de Poincy,
and

and without entering into any explanation, to thank him for the place Mr. Chanzy had obtained.

We passed the remainder of the evening in talking over our affairs and approaching voyage; he told me that the two shallops were loaded, and had taken in their stores, and he imagined he should have nearly sufficient merchandize to load the brigantine, and unless some unforeseen event happened, we should be ready to depart in four and twenty days.

As I was extremely fatigued, I went early to bed, and the next morning asked Mr. Prepont to accompany me ashore;

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ashore; he said he had some business aboard, but would dine with us; that I might take the boat and send it back again for him: I accepted his proposal and got immediately into the boat.

As soon as Mrs. Norfoyl saw me she gave a scream which was heard all over the house, and came to every ear before it reached mine. She ran into my arms, and testified her joy at seeing me. Mr. and Mrs. Chanzy immediately joined us, and I passed into the arms of each, who were overjoyed at my arrival. We had all of us so much to say, and so many questions to ask, that we spoke together for the space of three or four minutes. Silence succeeded for a moment,

ment, whilst we passed into the hall to breakfast, when they all desired the history of my adventure; I related it, and told them at the same time what Mr. Prepont had said of the Marquis de Poincy.

I asked Mr. Chanzy for his horse after dinner, to go to the Governor with the letter from the Marquis de Champigny; but both himself and the ladies opposed it, and told me it would be time enough to go the next morning and return in the evening, by which means I should avoid the heat of the day; and Mr. Chanzy said he would send a negro with me, to conduct me there, and bring me home again.

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From the pleasure they all expressed at seeing me, I perceived I should not be able to leave them that day, and that it would be impossible to have any particular conversation with Mrs. Norfoyl. I had a thousand things to say to her; my eyes expressed my impatience, and hers shewed as much; but they were the only interpreters of our sentiments during that day.

Mr. Prepont kept his word, and came to dine with us. At the end of the repast Mrs. Chanzy said to him, "I hope, Sir, as the Chevalier Dupont does not live at the Governor's, he will accept of a bed here; and his stay being so short, he cannot refuse us
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From

“ the pleasure of his company.” Mr. Prepont agreed to the proposal; I consulted the eyes of my dear Victoire, and saw her satisfaction in what Mr. Chanzy had said; therefore I immediately gave my consent.

As my unfortunate adventure had transpired through the whole isle, and my arrival was known, we had, during the whole afternoon, a great many visitors, who were both inquisitive and troublesome, which obliged me to relate my story several times over. The vexation their importunities caused me gave me a violent head-ach; a walk was proposed, which I accepted with pleasure, as I reckoned upon being accompanied

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accompanied by Mrs. Norsoy only ; but I reckoned without my host, for Mr. and Mrs. Chanzy went with us. The conversation was general, the walk very short ; and I went to bed soon after my return. The next day Mr. Chanzy, who saw my distress from so many visitors the evening before, proposed to me to go with him the next day to his house in the country, to pass some days till the enquiries of the people of the town were satisfied. I told him it would be very agreeable, provided the ladies would be of the party, otherwise it would be impossible, as I had promised them my company. I desired he would lend me his horse and negro to conduct me to the Marquis de Poincy's.

He left me to give the necessary orders, and I immediately went into the hall, where the ladies were waiting for me to breakfast, who promised to be of the party Mr. Chanzy had proposed. After breakfast I set off for St. Louis, where I arrived at nine o'clock in the morning.

I sent in my name to the Governor, and he desired me to walk in. I gave him the letter from the Marquis de Champigny. I thanked him in a very open, free manner for what he had done for Mr. Chanzy upon my account, and assured him that I should always have a grateful remembrance of the service he had done me. From my
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behavior he could not suspect that I had been informed of his duplicity of conduct, he therefore behaved very polite and friendly to me, and invited me to stay dinner; he informed me that he had retired into the country for the benefit of a milk diet, which he found restored his health very much, therefore had determined to continue there during the remainder of the month, and as according to all appearances we should sail before his return, he wished us a good voyage. I did not continue long after dinner, but took my leave of him, and he embraced me at parting. I mounted my horse, and returned to the town, where I arrived at eight o'clock.

I found Mr. Prepont with the ladies, who waited for my return with as much impatience as I wished to join them. I gave them an account of the success of my journey, and my thanks to the Marquis de Poincy, the recital of which amused them very much. Mrs. Norsoy then told me, that during my absence she had engaged Mrs. and Mr. Chanzy to dine the next day, aboard of the brigantine, with Mr. Prepont, who had invited them; but however, they were not willing to determine absolutely, without knowing if it would be agreeable to me. I answered, that I would willingly consent, upon condition that he would promise to come and pass two or three days with us at Mr.

Chanzy's

Chanzy's house in the country; who, together with the ladies, were of my way of thinking, which Mr. Prepont saw himself under a necessity of complying with; therefore said he would, provided we would put off our going into the country for a day longer than before agreed upon, to which we all consented.

We embarked the next day about eleven o'clock, in a canoe very much decorated, with a large umbrella to guard us from the heat of the sun, which at that time was very intense. We were saluted upon our arrival aboard with a discharge of the guns. Our dinner was as elegant as the place

would admit of, and at eight in the evening we came ashore.

I took the advantage of a moment that I found myself alone with Mrs. Norfoy, to complain of the constraint in which we lived; that since my arrival there had been no opportunity of testifying the greatness of my love, nor to hear her confirm what she had wrote in her letter to me at Martinico. She acknowledged the truth of what I said, and taking me by the hand, told me with a sigh, that she suffered as much from it as myself, but that we should be able to repay ourselves at her brother's in the country, where we

should

should enjoy more liberty than we did at that time.

The next day Mr. Chanzy departed for the country, where we promised to join him the day following. Whilst we were sitting at table after dinner we received a visit from two officers of the garrison; one of them came from Fort Royal only a few days before, in the room of a Lieutenant, deceased. As I had not seen Mr. Prepont that day, although he had promised us the preceding evening to come and dine with us, I took my leave with an intention of visiting him aboard. I met him upon the beach, just come ashore; he removed all my intended reproaches, by

telling me, that he had been employed during the morning taking in bales of cotton, and he had been so much hurried as scarcely to have time to eat his dinner, but proposed to pass the rest of the day and sup with us. I returned with him to the ladies, and found that the officers had taken their leave. I remarked an alteration in the countenance of Mrs. Norfoy upon my entrance, but was ignorant of the cause; she soon led me out of that embarrassment to bring me into a greater.

“ You must confess, Chevalier Dupont,” Mrs. Norfoy said to me, “ that you are very secret among your friends; was you afraid of the part we should take in what has happened

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"pened to you, that you have en-
 "deavored to conceal your adventure
 "at Fort Royal? You have been very
 "happy undoubtedly in thus giving us
 "a new proof of your modesty, so rare
 "in the people of your age, in order
 "to increase, if possible, the esteem we
 "already feel for you." She then re-
 peated my affair with the Swiss on ac-
 count of Miss V***, adding some ma-
 licious circumstances, which were very
 true; and I imagined she must have
 had the account from one of the officers
 I left there.

I was now in a strange dilemma, as
 I could not avoid saying something;
 therefore, looking at her with resolu-

tion, I said, "Madam, the affair that
 " you speak of seemed so little worthy
 " of your attention, that I never thought
 " of communicating it to you, and I
 " am ignorant of the person who has
 " informed you. Mr. Prepont knows
 " the whole of it and that my being
 " present may not affect him in the
 " recital which I desire he will make
 " to you, I will take my leave for
 " a quarter of an hour. You will
 " find, Madam, that the cause was not
 " any infidelity or breach of faith to
 " you, and that I do not deserve the re-
 " proaches you have made me."

In fact, I went out to consider of the
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threatened me, and returned again in about half an hour. "Come, Chevalier," Mrs. Chanzy said to me, "and let us embrace you; Mr. Prépont has related the story with sincerity, and without those additions the officer related it with." I gave myself up to so agreeable an invitation with pleasure; but when I came to Mrs. Norfoyl, the indifference with which she received me evidently shewed that the story, as the officer had related it, had made too strong an impression on her to have it effaced immediately even by Mr. Prépont, whom she had a very high opinion of. I was so affected with her indifference, that an universal tremor seized me, which was soon afterwards

wards followed by a violent fever, that obliged me to go to bed; the paroxysm continued till two, when I fell asleep and rested till eight. As soon as I awoke I saw Mrs. Norsoy enter my chamber, who, taking one of my hands between hers, said, with tears in her eyes, " Judge, my dear friend, by the
 " state in which you see me, of the dis-
 " tress I have suffered by shewing indis-
 " ference to you yesterday; although
 " persuaded of the truth of Mr. Pre-
 " pont's story, I was willing to leave
 " you in suspense what my thoughts
 " were; that was the cause of the
 " cold air you perceived in me yester-
 " day; it was only feigned, for in my
 " heart I did you justice. I have
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" been

" been sufficiently punished for my
" dissimulation, to flatter myself that
" you will pardon me. Restore your-
" self to health by composing your
" mind, to possess the reparation I have
" resolved to make you." How good
" you are, my adorable Victoire!" I
said to her; " I am happy in my acci-
" dent, if by that you are convinced of
" my fidelity and the sincerity of my
" sentiments for you. I demand of
" you, as a pledge of your tender love,
" to give me a kiss at this moment with
" as much satisfaction as you received
" mine yesterday with indifference."
I had scarcely finished the sentence be-
fore that tender creature threw herself
into my arms.

" It

" It is done, my charming Victoire,"
 I said to her; " I am cured; nothing
 " shall now prevent me going with
 " you to join your brother, who ex-
 " pects us. I hope that the country
 " air, and the pleasure of holding fre-
 " quent converse with you, will finish
 " the establishment of my health." I
 saw Mr. Prepont arrive at that in-
 stant; he came to enquire after my
 health, and hearing that I was awake,
 he came into my apartment, and was as
 much surprized at my speedy recovery,
 as at my sudden indisposition. He in-
 formed us, that he could not accom-
 pany us, but promised to dine with us
 the next day. Mrs. Norsoy retired to
 inform her mother of my being reco-
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vered; I immediately dressed myself, and followed, with Mr. Prepont, to join them in the hall. He soon took his leave to go and look after his affairs, and we prepared to go to Mr. Chanzy's seat, which was about a league off. He met us about half way, accompanied with a friend, who was the Lieutenant in his new company. We arrived at Charbon, which was the name of his seat. I will however spare the reader a description of the place, which, to do it justice, would be very long; and shall content myself with saying, it was a most delightful spot.

We walked in the evening with the Ladies, and Mr. Chanzy, who was willing

ling to shew me every beauty of his little paradise, led us so great a circuit, that at my return I found myself much fatigued, and I desired permission to retire to bed. As soon as I was arrived in my apartment, I saw Mrs. Norsoy enter, who came to inform me that her brother purposed to play a trick with me the next day; for he had invited, she said, two neighbors to dine with him, who were most amiable women. They came with a view of engaging me to do them a service with the Marquis de Champigny, and Mr. Chanzy had promised to assist them in their suit to me. She afterwards, with a laugh, added, "I desire you to take care of your heart, which will be in
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" some danger on this occasion."
" Don't be afraid, my adorable Vic-
" toire," I said to her, in a low voice ;
" my heart is too much charmed with
" the chains it already wears, and is
" too fond of its slavery to think of
" seeking another mistress; the en-
" gagement it has contracted with you
" is for life ; besides, it must lose by
" the change : consult your glass, and
" you will see the security of my love."
I embraced her, and she bid me adieu.

As I was walking the next morning
through a gallery which led upon the
terras, I heard somebody cough ; de-
sirous of knowing who it was, I en-
tered the saloon which was at the end
of

of the gallery, and found Mrs. Norfoyl negligently lying upon a sofa, with a book in one hand, and her head supported by the other, with her elbow rested upon a great pillow. "Who would have expected you up so soon, my dear Victoire?" I said to her. "Have you been disturbed in the night?" A loose handkerchief gave me a view of a neck that exceeded the lily in whiteness. "Will it be possible for you, my dear Victoire," I said to her, "to permit me to leave you for so long a voyage as I am going to make, without giving me some proofs of your love?" "You may have reason to repent any indelicacy," Sir," she said, "if you dare to ob-

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" for me any." At that moment her book fell out of her hands, her head fell upon the pillow; she sighed, and closed her eyes. I was so fired with the sight of her charms, which were carelessly displayed, that I knew not to what extremities I might have proceeded, if she had not pushed me from her, and said, " Rash man, what is it you attempt?" " To crown my love, my adorable Victoire," I said. " Say, to dishonor me rather," she replied; " Are these then the oaths and professions you have made? How unfortunate I am to have believed you! and how I reproach myself for my imprudence. Learn, Sir," she continued, " I reject you."

tinued, softening her features a little,
 " that possession proscribed both by
 " honor and religion is criminal, and
 " instead of making the bonds of love
 " firmer, it destroys them and gene-
 " rates contempt. I have this day
 " been the cause of my own misfortune,
 " therefore am as culpable as yourself;
 " and that consideration alone induces
 " me to pardon you, upon condition
 " however that you never from hence-
 " forth attempt any thing that may
 " offend me; otherwise I swear that
 " I will break off with you entirely,
 " and never see you more."

Besides the sincere affection that I
 had for Mrs. Norfoy, I esteemed and
 respected

respected her; but, I was at that time unacquainted with how much she was above women in general. The greatness of her sentiments, which time shewed me, and her behaviour, informed me of her true worth; and even then, vicious as I was, they caused a glimpse of repentance, excited my admiration, and brought my tears. I threw myself at her feet, confessed the injuries I had done her, and acknowledged myself unworthy of the pardon she had granted me. She repeated my pardon, raised me from the ground, gave me an affectionate embrace, and ordered me to forget every thing.

We

We had been near an hour together, when she desired me to walk into the garden, whither she would immediately follow me. I had not been there five minutes before I saw her with her brother and Mrs. Chanzy, enter the garden; the brother, after the salutation of the morning, informed me, that I should see at dinner one of the most beautiful creatures in the island, who would esteem herself very happy in making an impression upon my heart, sufficient to induce me to support her interest in a petition she was going to present to the Marquis de Champigny; by which means I should acquire a new friend from her gratitude; and she was both young and rich, and provided I admired

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admired her, it might be a very good
match for me. "How ambiguous you
"are, my dear friend," I said to him;
"you proposed to lead me into the
"country to relieve me some days
"from the importunities of the town,
"and you are the first that introduces
"visitors. As for the attachment you
"have proposed to me, I thank you
"for it; my choice is already made
"for life; besides, I am upon the eve
"of a long voyage. I shall not see the
"Marquis de Champigny for a long
"time, consequently have but little
"power to serve the lady. If her de-
"mand is just, and she goes in person,
"equity on one side, and her charms
"on the other, will be sufficiently pow-
"erful

"erful solicitors, without the necessity
 "of my interest." At this instant
 Mr. Prepont arrived, and the ladies very
 soon afterwards. The aunt, Mrs. Es-
 signe, entered first, and was immedi-
 ately followed by her niece Miss Lan-
 gady. I never saw any that could be
 compared in point of beauty to her ex-
 cept Mrs. Norfoy, who equalled her at
 least; nay, upon a strict examination,
 had a more regular set of features.
 They were both nearly of the same age.
 Miss Langady was tall and genteel, and
 all the graces seemed united in her per-
 son; the sound of her voice penetrated
 even to the heart, and could not fail
 of making incurable wounds. I per-
 ceived a strong emotion at the first
 sight

sight of her, and some involuntary sighs escaped me. I withdrew to endeavor to recover myself, and cursed Mr. Chanzy for having thus disturbed my repose. Mrs. Norfoy immediately joined me to desire my return into the saloon.

"How cruel you are, my dear Victoire!"

I said to her; "leave me here, I be-

"suech you, and do not compel me to

"be ungrateful to your love. How

"much I detest your brother for ha-

"ving invited those ladies! how much

"I dread the charms of Miss Lan-

"gady, or rather, how much I fear my

"own weakness!" "I admire your

"honesty," that tender woman said to

me; "your candid confession alarms

"me less than your silence would have

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"done;

“ done ; be yourself again ; come with
 “ me and re-join the company. I will
 “ charge myself with your cure, upon
 “ condition that you make me your
 “ confidant. Do not prepossess your
 “ mind, and leave to me to act for
 “ your good. This lady desires a fa-
 “ vor of you ; all the company and
 “ myself join her to engage you ; nay,
 “ I shall esteem it a favor conferred
 “ upon myself.” I confess the gener-
 ous behavior of Mrs. Norfoyl surprized
 me excessively. “ Just heaven !” I cried,
 “ where shall I find such a greatness of
 “ soul as your’s, my dear Victoire ?
 “ What ! shall I be capable, after all
 “ that you have done for me, to be un-
 “ faithful to you ? No, my dear, I
 “ will

" will never abandon you for another
 " whilst I live." I gave her my hand,
 and we returned; she presented me to
 Miss Langady, saying at the same time,
 " The Chevalier Dupont, to whom I
 " have been speaking of your affair;
 " he will take the greatest pleasure in
 " doing you all the service in his power."
 She wanted to obtain a grant of a small
 wood belonging to the King, which
 joined the house belonging to the la-
 dies, which had already been demanded
 of the Marquis de Feuguières, the Mar-
 quis de Champigny's predecessor. I
 promised to exert my power to oblige
 her, but observed that a letter would
 not answer the desired effect, as he
 would consult the registers and see the

motives that induced his predecessor to refuse it, which most probably would have the same influence upon him, and make him refuse it too; if she was willing to wait for my return from the voyage I was going to make, I could do myself the honour of presenting the petition to the Governor-general, and would support it with all my power.

“ Besides,” I added, by this means
 “ there will be a longer interval between
 “ the favor I have so lately obtained
 “ and what I wish to obtain for you.”

My reasons were approved of by all the company, and the ladies agreed to my proposal. The ladies, upon taking leave of us after dinner, invited us to
 dine

dine with them the next day, which we agreed to.

Our conversation, according to the custom that universally reigns in all countries, turned upon the company that had just left us. "It is impossible, I think," said Mr. Chanzy, "to find a more complete person in the world than Miss Langady, and her understanding is equal to her person; but the great share of coquetry that she possesses sullies all her good qualities, and causes frequent skirmishes amongst her admirers." After giving a history of several duels that had been fought on her account, he continued, "Her aunt

“ possesses so great a partiality for her,
 “ that she in some measure authorizes
 “ her levity. I wish however (address-
 “ sing himself to me) that you would
 “ undertake to fix her; the conse-
 “ quence would bring you as much ho-
 “ nor as wealth.”

“ If this is the best wish you have
 “ for a friend, Sir,” I answered, “ it
 “ will diminish the desire of being
 “ esteemed such. I thank you for
 “ your counsel, but I know myself to
 “ be of too jealous a disposition to be-
 “ hold with ease my rivals around her;
 “ therefore I should only draw myself
 “ into troubles, and I have no desire to
 “ increase the number of her unfortu-

“ nate

"nate lovers: but as you give me
 "such good advice, my dear friend,
 "why don't you follow it yourself?
 "Who knows but the happy lot of en-
 "gaging her heart may be reserved
 "for you? As for myself, I am de-
 "stined to plough the briny deep, and
 "have no other ambition than that of
 "making my fortune by trade, and
 "afterwards sharing it with the person
 "whose chains are my greatest glory."
 The first moment that I was alone
 with Mrs. Norsoy, she said to me,
 "Well! does your heart still perceive
 "any sentiments for Miss Langady?
 "You must confess that you are easily
 "inflamed, and what have I not to
 "fear when you are separated from
 "me?"

"me?" "Nothing, my dear Vic-
 "toire," I answered; "what happened
 "to me was rather the effect of sur-
 "prise than an emotion of love; be-
 "sides, those noble sentiments you pos-
 "sess, and which are so conspicuous,
 "will always preserve me from being
 "guilty of infidelity to you; and tho'
 "I have this day seen a lady who
 "nearly equals you in the beauty of
 "her person, where shall I find your
 "equal in honor and virtue?"

We then went to walk in a small
 wood adjoining to the house, where she
 delivered her sentiments with such sim-
 plicity and sincerity, as enchanted me;
 and if the moral lessons she gave me did

not

not make me wise, they made me at least sensible of the value of wisdom. She accompanied her instruction with the most flattering mark of tenderness, as she followed her natural disposition. She came at length to make me promise my happiness in the refusal she had given me that morning, and convinced me that virtue alone was capable of affording true pleasure.

Our entertainment the next day at Mrs. Essingues's was very splendid, and Miss Langady had used her utmost art to appear beautiful; but the account I had heard of her destroyed all the force of her charms, and my love for Mrs. Norsoy had taken such deep root,

that it was impossible for any thing to weaken it. When I came to compare the great virtue of the one with the great levity of the other, I had reason to be satisfied with the choice I had already made; I did not even avoid the eyes of that enchanting Syren; she was in great spirits at the beginning of the afternoon, sung with all the graces imaginable, and, in short, neglected nothing to please and increase the number of her slaves. I was seated opposite Mrs. Norsoy, who frequently observed me. I smiled, to make her understand that she need not fear my being caught by the baits that were thrown out. In short, Miss Langady seemed a good deal chagrined at my

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indifference, and became dull and melancholy; for nothing mortifies a coquette so much as seeing any person indifferent to her charms, and especially one she wishes to engage. The vexation arising from this cause very often exceeds all the pleasure she has received from her other conquests; she is sometimes so much humbled as to forget herself so much as even to make the first advances; her volatile disposition becomes solid, and she really loves

We returned in the evening to Charbon, where we staid some few days longer, and returned to Mrs. Chanzy's.

The

The day of our arrival from the country, Mr. Prepont informed me that his vessels were loaded, and he should depart in two or three days. There came to us that evening two Dominicans, to desire their passage to Cape Francois, or Cape Tiberoon as it is sometimes called. Mrs. Chanzy proposed to us to give two unfortunate young people their passage, informing us that they had been at Marigalante four months, waiting for an opportunity to go to St. Domingo. She said they had been cast away in a violent hurricane, and there were only seven saved out of the thirty, which was the number of people aboard, when the vessel foundered. Without waiting for Mr. Pre-

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Prepont's answer, she desired us to go with her into another apartment, where we found a young man about twenty-six years of age; he was tall, genteel, and had a most engaging countenance; there was a young lady with him, who seemed to be about twenty, whom he told us was his cousin to remove any injurious suspicions, she was a great beauty, and very accomplished. They were going, they said, to St. Domingo, to possess an immense fortune by the desire of an aunt of their father's. These two persons affected us so much, and their state seemed so deserving of our compassion, that Mr. Prepont not only agreed to give them the passage they desired, but also made them an offer of his

his purse, if they had occasion for money before they came to the place they were going to, and engaged them to dine with us that day.

The next day Mrs. Norfoxy came to seek me in my apartment, and told me, that upon account of the engagements we were under, every thing ought to be common between us from that time, therefore she was willing to associate herself with my good as well as bad fortune, and for that end had brought fifty Spanish pistoles, which she obliged me to accept in spite of all resistance.

The fatal moment of our departure being at length arrived, we mutually

gave

gave each other all the marks of the tenderness we were inspired with; and Mr. Prepont and myself took our leaves to go and lie aboard of the brigantine.

At four the next morning, the 1st of June, we weighed anchor, and sailed for St. Domingo.

I passed the two first days of our voyage in dull melancholy; but Mr. Prepont's representations, joined with my own reflections, somewhat diminished my distress. To dissipate it entirely, I connected myself intimately with the Chevalier d'Aubigny and his cousin, (for that was the name of the two unfortunate young people I have
before

before spoke of); they were both possessed of excellent dispositions, and all the necessary qualities to make them agreeable company. Mr. Prepont, who had a sincere esteem for them, had sent the two Dominicans aboard one of the shallops, commanded by his Lieutenant, as he could not entertain all of them aboard the brigantine, and was desirous of keeping the others; therefore the Chevalier and his cousin remained with us. I gave up to the latter an apartment that Mr. Prepont had fitted up purposely for me, and lay upon a mat-trass in a cabin adjoining her cousin's.

One night, whilst I was laying awake, I heard the Chevalier sigh several times; I desired,

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desired, if it would not be indiscreet in
him, to tell me the cause of that dis-
tress I saw he was afflicted with, ad-
ding, that grief was always diminished
by confidence in a friend; that if I was
so happy as to possess that little in his
esteem, he might be assured of my sym-
pathizing with him, and my discretion.
He answered, that I had desired what
he wished to communicate to me; that
he accepted my friendship with more
pleasure, as I had already given such
ample proofs of it both to himself and
his cousin, without knowing who they
were; that they both very much wished
for an opportunity of shewing their
gratitude; and to convince me of the
confidence he reposed in me, he would

no

no longer hesitate to relate the history
of their misfortunes.

The History of the Chevalier and Mrs.

D'Aubigny.

I AM descended from one of the most
antient families in Burgundy. I
was not more than ten years of age
when I lost my mother. My father,
who was a captain of dragoons in the
regiment of ***, placed me in the
hands of a sister-in-law. Her husband
was my father's elder brother, and ma-
jor in the same regiment. She had a
son of nearly my own age, and a daugh-
ter about five years younger. The same
masters instructed both my cousin and
myself,

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The Chevalier DUPONT! 259

myself and both of us received an education suitable to our birth. Our fathers came to pass every vacant hour with my aunt; my own was highly pleased to find my dispositions similar to his, whilst my cousin's were directly opposite; every thing tended to shew his inclination for the church, which was not approved of by his family, and made all the tenderness of his mother pass to me. As soon as I was arrived at my fifteenth year, my father procured me a cornetcy in his regiment, and at the expiration of four years I obtained a company; about two months afterwards my uncle died, in consequence of a wound he received in a duel. My father took me with him to pass some time

time with my aunt, to support and comfort her in the loss of her husband, who appeared afterwards not to have been very dear to her. I found that my eldest cousin was gone to Paris to study theology, and my little cousin, who was then about fourteen years of age, had been placed in a convent about three months before.

I received every mark of affection from my aunt during the four months that I continued with her; she gave me the greatest proofs of her friendship, and at my departure made me a present of a hundred louis d'ors, which was a very agreeable present to a young man of twenty, who loved play and every other

other amusement that a person is susceptible of at that age. After that time I was almost four years without quitting the garrison, but the sudden death of my father obliged me to absent myself from it, to settle my affairs, which he did not leave in the happiest state.

My aunt, although she was at that time forty years of age, was one of the handsomest, and also the richest women in the province. She had refused, since the death of her husband, several very considerable offers which had been made her, under the pretext of a resolution not to marry again. She placed herself at the head of my affairs, settled them

other

them and paid my father's debts, bestowed many favors upon myself, excused me from any debts I might think due to her upon account of the money she had advanced, and charged herself with the administration of my affairs during my absence.

One day that we were together alone, she shewed me an account of every thing she had done for me since the death of my mother to that moment, to the prejudice even of her own children, who, she observed at the same time, she had done no great injury to, as she had determined her daughter should pass the remainder of her days in a convent; that on the other hand her son had embraced

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The Chevalier DUPONT. 263

braced the church by his own desire, therefore he could not oblige her to give an account of his father's riches, which in truth, she said, were but very moderate, though more than sufficient for the support of a person so religious as he was; besides that, she was mistress of her own fortune, and could dispose of it to any person without restraint or controul from any one; and that it was considerable enough to make the man happy she approved of. She continued, that she did not believe me so little capable of discernment as not to perceive that I was the object of her choice, and she had too good an opinion of my understanding to suppose me insensible of the happiness I should experience from
the

the acceptance of her hand and fortune, which she had refused to so many ; but her design was to wait two years longer, till I should obtain a majority, before she concluded the marriage, and she would obtain the necessary dispensations from the court of Rome; that it would be more prudent to keep the affair a secret to prevent public discourse, and the relationship of aunt and nephew would be a disguise to our connection. She then asked me what I thought of the design? “ Nothing, my dear aunt, (I said) but that you are desirous of knowing my real sentiments. I am very sensible of every thing you have done for me, and shall always preserve a grateful remembrance

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“membrance of the many favors I
 “have received, but I am not so base
 “as to desire the disinherittance of your
 “children. I will not deceive you, if
 “I did, it would make me undeserving
 “of your favors, and the honorable
 “proposal you have now made me ; if
 “it is true that you are willing to
 “unite your fortune with mine, an ho-
 “nor I am afraid of flattering myself
 “with, what would be your opinion of
 “a man that was capable of plunging
 “a dagger in the bosoms of your chil-
 “dren ? For would it not be equal to
 “death to deprive them of all their
 “fortune ? You should know me bet-
 “ter, Madam, and should do more
 “justice to the sentiments of honor

“ you have taken such pains to incul-
 “ cate. If at the expiration of two
 “ years, the term your prudence has
 “ appointed for my happiness, you con-
 “ tinue in the same resolution, and I
 “ can possess your hand without re-
 “ morse on account of your children, it
 “ will produce a much more solid hap-
 “ piness than celebrating our marriage
 “ sooner, whilst I have some prejudices
 “ to overcome.”

I thus rather favored her design for
 several reasons, as an absolute denial
 might have occasioned her to take some
 resolutions still more injurious to her
 children, and have given her hand to
 one of her lovers, that perhaps would

not

not act with my delicacy ; besides, two years might produce great alterations. I had besides my own concerns to secure, they were in her hands, and I had great reason to fear the conduct of a woman who saw herself despised ; as slighted love generally produces an implacable hatred, which is often succeeded by the most melancholy consequences. An air of satisfaction, that instantaneously appeared, diffused over her countenance, evidently proved the pleasure my answer had given. She said that she was very glad to find that I possessed such fine sentiments, but thought I carried my delicacy rather too far ; however, she said, it served to confirm the good opinion she had always entertained

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tained of me, and to justify her discernment in her choice. She added, that since I had accepted her offers, nothing henceforth need prevent us living together, as people who were one day to be united by indissoluble bonds, and that she knew me sufficiently to fear neither my inconstancy or indiscretion. She then quitted me to receive a visitor, and left me time to reflect upon what had happened between us. Her inflamed countenance, the sparkling of her eyes, and the tendency of her discourse, convinced me of the disorder of her mind, and the desire she had to anticipate those pleasures, which were not to my taste; and I then repented, though too late, of meeting her passion. Religion from

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a young officer seemed to promise but in-
differently to sooth her passions, there-
fore I went immediately to write to a
friend to procure an order from the
court for me to join the regiment im-
mediately, and till that happened, I de-
termined to feign sickness, to diminish,
if possible, by that and absence, a passion
that I had every thing to fear from.

The day after this conversation, my
aunt being informed by her woman of
my indisposition, imagined that the
country air would restore my health,
and for that purpose engaged me to ac-
company her to the convent where my
cousin was; I consented with less reluc-
tance, as by that means I should avoid

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a *tête a tête*, which I was very much afraid of. Immediately upon our entering the parlor in the cloyster she took me by the hand and presented me to Miss D'Aubigny, the lady you see here with with me, saying, "My dear daughter, I have brought your cousin, whom you have always loved, and when two years have elapsed, I shall add another title, which will make him still dearer to you." We fixed our eyes upon each other, she blushed, and I felt a sudden emotion. Without giving time to her mother to continue her speech, she cried out, "Oh, my dear Mamma, will you then make him my husband?" My aunt, at this question, seemed thunder struck, looked

at

at her with disdain, got up and walked several times across the room, to think what she should say in answer to it.

I perceived that what my aunt had said produced a very considerable effect upon my cousin, and whether self-love was flattered by the joy she expressed when I had been mentioned, or whether I thought her more charming than when I first saw her at the grate, or to what cause to attribute my sensations, I knew not; but I found I loved her; a strong emotion, accompanied with several sighs, stifled, in some measure, through fear, made her sensible of my passion; and her eyes, the inter-

preters of her sentiments, convinced me of her sympathizing with me.

The Chevalier D'Aubigny was at this part of his history, when we heard the boatswain's whistle, which was immediately followed by a violent noise upon the quarter-deck over our heads. We slipped on our cloaths, and went upon deck with the greatest haste; it was to be a witness to an accident that our pilot had caused, from which we were with difficulty preserved. We had joined company the evening before, off St. Kitt's (an island that I shall have occasion to speak of in the sequel) with a barque bound to Jamaica. After we had hailed each other according to custom,

tom, the captain or master of the barque appeared to be our pilot's friend; as the sea was calm, he took the boat and went aboard, and so well renewed his old acquaintance, that when he returned about eleven in the evening, he was so drunk that he fell overboard, and would have been lost, if one of the men in the boat had not caught hold of the skirts of his coat and hawled him in. As soon as he came aboard he fell asleep, and left the steerage of the vessel to the care of a seaman who had no experience, and suffered a squall to come on without shortening sail. The squall was so violent that it laid us on our broadside, and carried away one of our topmasts; our mainsail held so much wind that we

could not take it in, and we were forced to make several large holes through it to let the wind through, which succeeded very well, or we should soon have finished our courses. We shipped one very large sea, that forced me with great violence against the mainmast, and it was happy for me that the mainmast was in the way, or I should inevitably have been washed overboard, where in all probability I should have been a meal for a shark, which are in great abundance in that latitude.

To increase our misfortune, we were informed, that we had two feet water in the hold. Every man was immediately ordered to the pump, and each was obliged

obliged indiscriminately to work for the preservation of his life. We fired a gun to inform our two shallops of our distress, who were a league a-head of us; they answered us, slackened sail, and waited for us.

About noon we perceived Santa Cruz, where we determined to go and repair our brigantine. We found that our shallops had been happy enough to escape without any damage, as their commanders had been more prudent. As we were obliged to carry but little sail, we did not come to an anchor at Santa Cruz till eight the next morning. We saluted the fort, and went ashore to visit the Governor. He received us in



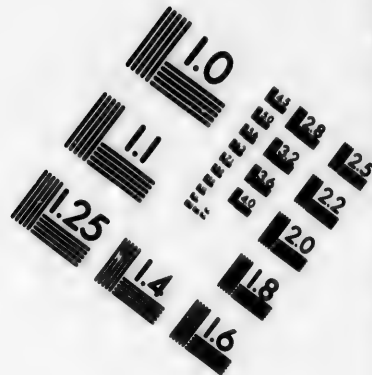
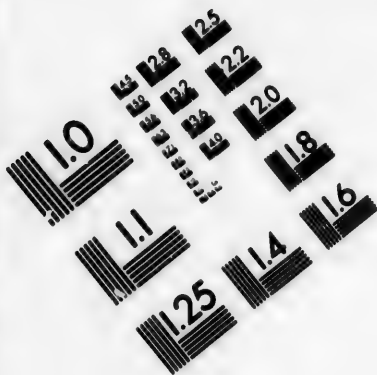
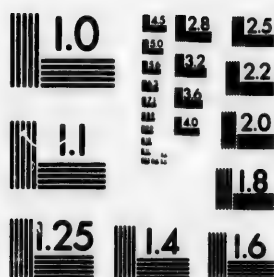


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a very polite manner, and promised us every assistance in his power, and invited us all to dine with him ; that is to say, Mr. Prepont, the Chevalier and Mrs. D'Aubigny, the two Dominicans, and myself.

This is another of the West-India islands ; the surface of it is every where level and even, and the air unwholesome, especially in the months of June, July, and August. It has several rivers, and three good roads or ports ; it produces large quantities of sugar, and excellent tobacco ; but the latter article had entirely failed the last year, and I sold a fourth part of mine which I bought at St. Vincent's for a very great

great price. This island once belonged to the French, who sold it to the Danes, and it has been theirs ever since.

As we were one day upon the coast, we perceived a small island at a short distance from Santa Cruz. Mr. Prepont called it the isle of Salt, which had been once inhabited, though nobody lived there at that time. It was proposed to go there with our guns, which was immediately accepted, and we killed a considerable quantity of game.

This island is about eleven leagues long, and three wide, and had at that time some marks of plantations being there

there formerly, but the badness of the water seemed to be the cause of its being uninhabited.

Our brigantine being quite repaired, we took leave of the Governor, weighed anchor, and saluted the fort. We continued our voyage for Cape François, where we arrived without any other accident on the twenty-fourth day after our departure from Marigalante, and came to an anchor about eight in the evening.

As it was late when we entered the road at Cape François, and before we could dress ourselves proper to appear before the Governor, the fort would be shut

shut up; we put our visit off till the next day, and determined to pass the night aboard.

We had several visitors aboard till ten o'clock, and there commonly are to every vessel that arrives in the road. They brought us all sorts of fish; we bought one called an old wife, which was about three feet long, and was excellent stewed in wine.

When we had supped, I engaged the Chevalier D'Aubigny to retire, and give me the remainder of his history; which he had left unfinished from our danger in the squall off St. Kitt's, and had always been interrupted, when he
at-

attempted to go on with it, which he consented to with pleasure.

*The Continuation of the History of the
Chevalier and Mrs. D'Aubigny.*

After my aunt had walked across the room for seven or eight minutes, she took her seat, and addressed her daughter in the following words: "It appears to me, Miss, that your imagination is too much inflamed, and that you think more of the world than you ought. Who has already given you such information upon this article, as to induce you to think of marriage? The change in your countenance upon what I hinted at,"

" speaks

“ speaks a desire, which, at your age, is
 “ criminal ; but I would not have you
 “ consider my nephew as a man des-
 “ tined to be your husband, as two
 “ very essential things oppose it ; you
 “ are not rich, and your cousin is still
 “ less so, and the little he possesses is
 “ owing to my kindness ; therefore,
 “ my dear child, erase from your
 “ mind the impression I have unde-
 “ signedly made by my words, which
 “ I repent of very heartily. You will
 “ continue here two years longer, and
 “ then if you desire an establishment in
 “ the world, I will endeavor to pro-
 “ cure you such as you might expect ;
 “ however, I hope the Lord will in-
 “ spire you with a love for a vocation
 “ more

“ more useful to his glory and your
 “ own good. I will not however force
 “ your inclination; but consider that
 “ the world is very full of rocks and
 “ quicksands, upon which the most so-
 “ lid virtue, unless supported by grace,
 “ is oftentimes lost; and the virtue
 “ like yours, which seems already wa-
 “ vering, seldom escapes. Consider,
 “ on the other hand, the pleasures of a
 “ monastic life, the extreme delight of
 “ dedicating yourself to the author of
 “ your being entirely, for which you
 “ will receive a crown of glory, which
 “ is the ambition of all people, and but
 “ few receive. You will quit your re-
 “ lations, your friends, and acquaint-
 “ ances; this seems difficult and cruel,

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" I allow ; but you will be repaid a
" hundred fold by Providence for some
" few imaginary and momentary plea-
" sures, the enjoyment of which is
" short, and leaves the body afterwards
" a prey to remorse of conscience.

" Make the comparison between these
" two states, my dear daughter, and I will
" act according to your choice. I shall
" leave your cousin with you for a mo-
" ment whilst I make a visit to the
" the Lady Abbess, and I will after-
" wards come and bid you adieu."

We took every advantage of the mo-
ment that Mrs. D'Aubigny was absent,
to confess the sentiments we were mu-
tually

ually inspired with for each other; I swore to persevere in my love for her till death; she protested that she would attach herself entirely to me whilst she lived, and that no other should ever have a place in her heart.

I then related every thing to her that had passed between her mother and myself; I promised to wait of her the day of my departure for the garrison, and during the interval to endeavor to find out the means of conveying letters to each other with secrecy and safety.

I advised her also not to appear disobedient to the desires of her mother, during the two years that remained to
eclipse

elapse before my obtaining a majority, least it should be prejudicial to our interest; that on my side, my approaching absence would secure me from her pursuits, and besides I knew how to dissemble in such a manner as not to leave the least cause for suspicion. I had no sooner finished this last word than Mrs. D'Aubigny returned, and after desiring her daughter to reflect seriously upon what she had said, we took our leave and returned to her house.

We had no conversation during our journey, as we were accompanied by Mrs. Bonneuil, my aunt's woman. She placed great confidence in her, and I mention her here, as she will presently make

make a principal figure in my history.

This woman was about fifty years of age; she lived in the same capacity with my mother, as she then did with my aunt, into whose service she entered upon the death of her first mistress. She had nursed me, and gave me daily proofs of her friendship and regard for me.

As I wished to deliver myself up to my reflections, to think of the means of seeing my cousin before my departure, and to establish a secret correspondence between us, I feigned myself more indisposed than when I went out in the

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morning, which gave me the liberty of retiring to my apartment, and going to bed. I had not been there more than an hour before Mrs. D'Aubigny came to me ; she appeared to be very sensible of my indisposition, and proposed to send for her doctor, which I very strongly objected to, observing that a little repose would probably re-establish my health. She then asked me if I was contented with the lesson she had given her daughter ? I approved of it in such a manner as would have deceived the most suspicious, and added, that the behavior of my cousin ought to be considered only as the effect of youth, and in fact did not deserve the least attention ; that it would be better not to push

push matters any further, because, as I had the honor to observe to her before, I was unwilling to force her to the vocation; but if it was the effect of my cousin's choice, I should be happy, and have nothing to reproach myself with.

I never in my life saw a woman more pleased than my aunt was with my answer; she heaped caresses on me, and I believe they would have been followed with the most serious consequences, if my heart had been disposed for it. Mrs. Bonneuil entered soon afterwards, and happily drew me out of the embarrassment in which I was plunged, by taking her mistress to supper.

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I employed the whole night in forming different projects, but could not determine upon any; and whilst I was dressing myself the next morning, I saw Mrs. Bonneuil enter, who came from my aunt to know how I was. An air of impatience, which I expressed on being so frequently disturbed, and some sighs that escaped me, occasioned her to tell me, that I was more uneasy than disordered, and that if I was willing to open myself to her, I should find her a discreet confidant; that I could not be unacquainted with her friendship for me, and she desired nothing so much as to prove her zeal; she said that she possessed the confidence of her mistress; that she knew all her designs concerning

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me,

me, and that the evening before, whilst she was undressing of her, she had told her of the discourse she had that day with the Lady Abbess concerning her daughter, and that her intention was to force her to take the habit immediately after my departure for the garrison, and to force her to take the veil before my return; she said she informed me of it, that if I interested myself in the execution of her designs, I might take the necessary steps to prevent it; that she was determined to make me such advances towards my confidence, that she might assist me with her advice, and do me all the service in her power; that she was encouraged at the views of her mistress, whom she would henceforth

pre-

pretend to serve in her criminal desires, only to serve me in my more innocent designs. I accepted the offers of this woman with pleasure, and did not conceal from her what had passed between my aunt and me; I expressed the invincible repugnance I had to marrying her, and the vexation her proposals had caused me; I let her understand that my particular interest forced me to use a dissimulation with her, that was contrary to my nature and wishes; I told her that I expected an order every day from court to join the regiment, which I had sent for in order to place myself out of the reach of her infamous pursuits; I confessed my love for my cousin to her; her return and the pro-

mise I had made to see her the day of my departure, with my desire of establishing a correspondence between us ;
“ in short, (I said) these are the true
“ causes of my indisposition, and no
“ person can so effectually remove them
“ as you, if you are as zealous for my
“ interest as you say you are.”

This woman confirmed me in the good opinion I already entertained of her, by telling me she would go and consider of the measures necessary to be taken to oblige me ; and that till my departure she would watch her mistress so well, that she would not have much time to teize me with her discourse, and
would

would not fail of giving me an account every morning of what she had heard.

Three days after this conversation I received the expected order from court, and pretended to faint when I delivered it to my aunt; she informed me that she had a near relation in the Queen's household, whom she would write to if I was willing, to desire him to get the order revoked, which must have been given through mistake, as there were seven weeks unexpired of the time granted me for my absence. I appeared to consent to her proposal at first, but made her perceive immediately afterwards, that such a step would inevitably bring reflection upon me; therefore
the

the most wise and prudent resolution would be, I said, notwithstanding my desire to be near her, to obey the order, and if nothing extraordinary required my presence at the garrison, to inform the minister of the injury I should suffer in my affairs from my absence, and to demand another furlough, which would not be for a less time than four months, by which means I should be a gainer of several weeks longer absence; she consented to my reasons, which she thought very good, and my departure was fixed for the fourth day after that.

Mrs. Bonneuil came to me the next morning as usual to communicate the
scheme

scheme she had thought of for my visiting my cousin, and brought with her a complete Abbot's dress, band, wig, leather cap, &c. "There, Sir," she said to me, laughing at the same time, "is what will introduce you to your cousin the day you depart from hence; I have borrowed it of a cousin of mine, who is about your size. I have likewise arranged every thing necessary for your correspondence; you may direct the letters you write to your cousin under cover to me, and I will send them to a relation of mine which I have in that convent, who will deliver them punctually, and I shall be able to receive her answers

“ swers by the same means ; but it
“ will be necessary to engage my cousin
“ by some little presents, though I will
“ take that expence upon myself. Are
“ you pleased with my scheme? All
“ your difficulties are removed, and it
“ is your duty to conduct matters in
“ such a manner as not to let any thing
“ transpire, or we shall all of us be
“ lost beyond recovery.” I embraced
her, and thanked her for the essential
service she had done me. I gave her
a diamond ring, worth forty pistoles,
which had belonged to my mother,
and had been in my possession since
the death of my father, and accom-
panied it with five and twenty louis
d’ors,

d'ors, to bestow as she thought proper. She left me alone, and I went into the town to settle my affairs.

End of Vol. I.